

Thursday, December 14, 2017

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Work to transform the town centre under way

- Plans for massive revamp near Harvey Centre approved
- Demolition work begins to make way for new complex
- 447 homes and 4,000 sqm of retail space to be built

FULL STORY: Pages 6&7



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BRIEFING

in this week's paper...



How NOT to drive in the wintry weather!

Page 8

REGULARS

Family Announcements.....	14-15
Community News.....	16-17
Your Pictures.....	18-21
Features.....	22-34
Puzzles.....	36
Property & Living.....	37-66
Sport.....	88

PICK UP POINTS

■ Harvey Centre, Harlow (management suite)	■ Guardian, Post Office Walk, Harlow
■ Mulberry Green Estate, Station Road, Old Harlow	■ Haart, 4 West Gate, Harlow
■ Genesis, 3 High Street, Old Harlow	■ Future Let, 52 Market Street, Old Harlow
■ Kings, Unit 4, Church Langley Way, Harlow	■ Reyland Johnson, 1 Acorn Mews, Harlow
■ Kings, 19 East Gate, Harlow	■ Howick & Brooker, 1 High Street, Old Harlow
■ Geoffrey Matthews, 47 High Street, Old Harlow	■ Belvoir, 40 High Street, Old Harlow

CONTACTS



Editorial

Editor	Alan Woods
Post	Harlow Star, Kestrel House, Hedgerows Business Park, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 5PF
Phone	News 01245 602730 Sport 01992 663313
e-mail	newsdesk@essexlive.news

Advertising

Telephone Sales	01992 526666
External Sales	Emma Wood 07816 170274

Distribution

If you have a query regarding the delivery of your newspaper or would like to join our team as a newspaper deliverer, please contact our distribution department:

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Email enquiries@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk

Newspaper sales

Manager	Duncan Anderson
Phone	01223 434258
email	duncan.anderson@Cambridge-news.co.uk
Subscriptions (postal & home delivery)	

0333 2028000

Leaflet Distribution 01582 470506

Photo Sales 0844 4060389

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THE TOP 10 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK



A Christmas Tree Festival takes place at Holy Trinity Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford, this weekend

TREELY NICE

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOUTH STREET, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, FRIDAY TO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 (12PM) TO 16 (5PM)

The church will be filled with light and colour from all the decorated trees on display.

You will find a warm welcome, light refreshments, Christmas raffle and music with a special carol service for all the family on Sunday at 3pm.

Entry is free although there is a small charge for refreshments

IN GREAT VOICE

ISABEL HOSPICE CAROLS IN THE CHAPEL: THE CHAPEL, HAILEYBURY COLLEGE, HERTFORD HEATH, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7.30PM

Join in at the chapel at Haileybury for an enchanting evening of carols by candlelight, performed by Braughing Sing, followed by festive refreshments. Buy tickets at www.isabelhospice.org.uk and email beth.hardy@isabelhospice.org.uk for more information or call 01707 382500

...AND BREATHE BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Rhodes Theatre

BREATHE EASY GROUP: EAST HERTS COUNCIL OFFICES, ROOMS A+B, CHARRINGTONS HOUSE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14M 2PM - 4PM

The Bishop's Stortford Breathe Easy Group (BSBEG), supported by East Herts Council and the British Lung Foundation, helps those living with a lung condition and brings them together.

There is support from a health professional and there are refreshments.

For more information, call 01992 531471 or email simon.barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk

OH YES IT IS

RICK WHITTINGTON: VICTORIA HALL THEATRE HARLOW, DECEMBER 15, 7.30PM

A retelling of a classic Christmas story of a dreamer trying to make it in London with his annoying little cat. Tickets cost between £12 and £15. To buy tickets, call 01279 420062.

MARKET DAY

GREAT DUNMOW COUNTRY MARKET: CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, MILL LANE, GREAT DUNMOW, THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 9.30AM - 11.30AM

Head down for a range of baked goods, preserves, eggs and honey in Great Dunmow.

A great opportunity to stock up before Christmas is finally upon us.

ANIMAL MAGIC

NATIVITY AND CAROLS WITH THE ANIMALS: PETS CORNER, HARLOW TOWN PARK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5PM

Free admission at Pets Corner, where you'll be able to enjoy a traditional Nativity with carols performed by children. Donations are welcome but

admission is free.

OH CAROL!

SPURRIERS CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT: SPURRIERS HOUSE (PETS CORNER), HARLOW TOWN PARK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1PM - 3PM

Henry Moore Primary School and Harlow Brass Band are set to treat visitors to an afternoon of singing carols. A great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

THE WHITE STUFF

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS: RHODES ARTS COMPLEX, 1-3 SOUTH ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, DECEMBER 16 - JANUARY 6

The Rhodes Pantomime returns for Christmas 2017 with a magical performance of Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs.

To book tickets, call 01279 710200.

CHILDREN'S TREAT

SANTA'S POLKA DOT PIRATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 TO SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 AT HARLOW PLAYHOUSE

The show is for children aged two to six and audience participation is encouraged as Father Christmas and friends sing songs and give gifts to good boys and girls in the crowd.

A meet and greet with Father Christmas will be after the show.

HEALTHY STROLL

BISHOP'S STORTFORD HEALTH WALKS: SOUTHERN COUNTRY PARK, DECEMBER 18, 10AM

Meet fellow health-conscious residents for a brisk walk through beautiful scenery. Meet at the car park off Thorley Lane East.

Man who arranged to meet a 15-year-old for sex avoids jail

Ex-ambulance worker given suspended sentence after guilty plea to grooming

By Sophie Finnegan
sophie.finnegan@essexlive.news

AN ambulance technician from Harlow who arranged to meet a 15-year-old boy in a supermarket car park and invited him to a "sex party" has avoided jail.

Stephen Youens, 52, formerly of Five Acres, contacted a fake account on gay dating app Grindr and arranged to meet up with a boy, who he believed to be 15 years old.

An investigative journalist used Grindr to pose as a child.

On October 10, at around 9.40am the reporter was on his fake profile named 'Young', when he was contacted by another profile named 'NSA today', which was Youens' account.

Conversation

Prosecuting, Raj Joshi, told the court that the pair became involved in a discussion and the conversation moved onto where each other lived and their sexual preferences.

Having said he was 15, the fake account holder then asked for a face picture, which the defendant sent one over.

The defendant said he was 42 and the fake profile user again confirmed he was

15 and they began discussing what would take place when they met – including the mention of a sex party.

The fake account user asked: "Where



Residents staged a protest outside the home of paedophile Stephen Youens, inset

we going?" to which Youens replied: "You can come back to mine. I'm genuine and 100 per cent safe."

He replied: "Okay I'm a bit nervous but won't let you down."

A stock photo of a teenage boy was

sent and Youens sent another photo back to him.

They talked about getting coffee and Youens told him he had brought protection and lube.

The fake account asked: "Am I right, you mean meet for sex yeah?" to which Youens replied: "Yeah if you want," and they agreed to meet in the Aldi car park in Harlow.

Police were informed that the defendant was in the car park and they attended the scene.

The conversation between the fake account user and Youens took a different turn after he saw somebody in black following him and get out a car.

Having seen the officers approaching the vehicle, which was an Audi, he drove off from

the scene.

His photo was posted on Facebook by the fake boy's account, asking if anyone knew who he was.

The man was identified as Youens and he was arrested by police.

When arrested, Youens claimed he had been at home on the day of the incident waiting for a wash-

ing machine repair man to come round.

He provided an invoice which was dated for October 6 – four days before the incident.

On November 8, he admitted attempting to meet a boy under 16 following grooming.

Mitigating for Youens, James Bones said: "This was an attempt, thankfully no child was actually involved."

"He is a 52-year-old man with no previous convictions and a previous good character. Obviously, there must be a darker side to him from the Grindr discussion."

"He is the author of his own ruin and he must take responsibility for what he did. He has lost his good name, lost his employment and he has moved out of the area."

"I would ask for a suspended order to address the need of this man and to ensure future protection that he has rehabilitated."

Children

Sentencing Youens, Judge Lynch said: "Any adult who contacts children this way will feel the full force of the law."

"Thankfully, there was no child involved. If there had been it would almost certainly be an immediate custodial sentence."

"You are a lucky man. Rest assured the court takes the protection of children very seriously and those who put children in risk are dealt with in the appropriate way."

"It will serve the public better, not to send you to prison."

At Chelmsford Crown court last Thursday, Judge Lynch sentenced Youens to 18 months in jail, suspended for two years.

He must take part in a sex offender rehabilitation programme and 20 days rehabilitation activity.

He was also made subject of a sexual harm prevention order for ten years and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for ten years.



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Sick youngster was 'difficult to soothe' after coming out in a worrying rash

Mum 'forced to leave doctors' surgery because ill son's crying was too loud'

By James Gregory
james.gregory@essexlive.news

A HARLOW mum has criticised her local GP after she said she was forced to leave the surgery because her ill son was crying too loudly.

Jenna McKinney, 39, who lives in Church Langley, took her son Junaid to Church Langley Medical Practice after she had arranged an emergency appointment when he came out in a rash and was not eating.

With Junaid in her arms, she rushed down to the surgery and waited to be called in by one of the doctors.

But to her shock, Jenna said she was then told to leave in front of a packed waiting room by a doctor who had complained that Junaid was making too much noise.

She said: "My little boy had come up in a rash so I arranged an emergency appointment.

"We got there on time and waited for his name to

come up on the monitor.

"But then this irate doctor came out and told me that he was making too much noise.

"He did not ask me who I was there to see and it was in front of a full waiting room."

Jenna and Junaid had already moved away from the main waiting area to try and limit the noise they were making.

It later transpired that Junaid had hand, foot and mouth disease, a common infection that causes mouth ulcers and spots in the hands and feet.

Serious

"I did not know at the time what he had, but it could have been something more serious like meningitis," Jenna added.

"Any parent knows that when a child is sick they cry and are difficult to soothe.

"You should not send people away just because they are crying."

Jenna has been registered as a patient at Church Langley for seven years, and up until now has not had a problem.

"I don't really have a problem with the surgery as a whole, it is just this one doctor who was so rude to us."

Jenna has complained to NHS England and the local health authority.

The surgery has been contacted for comment but has not yet responded.



Junaid and his mum were asked to leave the surgery because he was "crying too loudly"

Two more TV stars to join Towie pair as pie and mash shop puts on a festive celebration

A HARLOW pie and mash shop is embracing the Christmas spirit, as two more stars from popular TV show Towie will visit for a meet and greet with fans.

Dan Edgar and James 'Lockie' Lock were already due to appear at The Cockney Waffle in Harlow on Saturday, December 16, but now Pete Wicks and Jack Devlin will also join.

Both Wicks from Towie, and Devlin, the Ex on the Beach series six star, will be present at the pie and mash shop, which is located in Staple Tye Shopping Mews on Perry Road, between 4.30pm and 6pm.

Lock and Edgar will be at the shop from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Songs

DJ Sebadee, who performs regularly at The Sugar Hut in Brentwood, will also be at the event playing a variety of festive songs to get everyone into the Christmas spirit.

Speaking about the upcoming event, The Cockney Waffle's 52-year-old owner Jo Morgan, from Sawbridgeworth, said: "They were supposed to be coming with the other two guys but they had another event so rather than let me down



James Lock and Dan Edgar from Towie are making a special appearance in Harlow

they are going to come at 4.30pm instead.

"It's so good of them and my son-in-law, who owns All Star Entertainment, has been fantastic

and he has loads of people on his books.

"The Essex People, they love Towie don't they? It's just been really good. "Now that Pete Wicks is coming –

he's probably the most recognisable one – that's really good."

For more information about The Cockney Waffle, you can visit the shop's Facebook page.

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Driver is unhurt as car lands on its side

A SUSPECTED drink driver who tipped their car over after a serious crash in Harlow was "lucky to walk away with no injuries".

Police were called to Common Side Road, in Harlow at around 9pm on Saturday following a single vehicle collision.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of drink driving and was taken to hospital as a precaution.

Xhead

Luckily, the driver did not suffer any injuries despite the nasty crash.

Shocking photos show the car tipped over on its side with the front of vehicle severely crumpled.

PC Josh Haase tweeted: "Very lucky to have walked away with no injuries. When will people learn."

A spokesperson for Essex Police said: "Police received reports of a road traffic collision in Commons Road, Harlow, at around 9pm yesterday [Friday,



The wrecked car on its side after the crash

December 8].

"Officers attended the scene of a single vehicle collision after a

car ended up on its side.

"Police arrested a 25-year-old man at the scene on suspicion of

drink driving and he was taken to hospital for treatment.

"He has since been released

under investigation.

"A female passenger was taken to hospital for treatment."

Aggressive attacker left victim for dead

A WOMAN who repeatedly stabbed a man, cut his throat and left him for dead could face life behind bars.

Kelly Gentry, 46, has been on trial at Chelmsford Crown Court charged with the attempted murder of a man in his 60s.

Gentry, who denied the charge, was cleared of attempted murder by a jury on Monday.

But the jurors unanimously found her guilty of the alternate offence of committing grievous bodily harm with intent following a six-day trial.

On the evening of June 23, Gentry went to the home of her victim, referred to only as Mr Marlborough, in Wellesley Road, in Clacton, where she became aggressive and demanded money.

She proceeded to threaten her victim with a knife before stabbing him in the stomach, shoulder and chest before slashing his throat.

Mr Marlborough passed out but came to at around 5.30am when he alerted a neighbour who called the emergency services.

Investigation

A police investigation led to Gentry, of no fixed address, being arrested in Harlow on July 1 and subsequently charged with attempted murder.

Gentry looked nervous as she sat in the dock awaiting the verdict from the jury foreman.

Jacqueline Carey, mitigating for Gentry, spoke with Judge Christopher Morgan about the need for a psychiatric report to be completed to assess her client's "dangerousness".

It was also revealed that Gentry's previous conviction for a similar offence could result in her receiving a life sentence.

Before sending the defendant back to prison, Judge Morgan said: "You were the last person to be seen with Mr Marlborough.

"There is no doubt that you stabbed him. The jury have acquitted you of attempted murder.

"You will serve a significant sentence of imprisonment, if not a life sentence."

Gentry is due to be sentenced in February.

Children locked in school after woman is assaulted

Parent says there was blood on the ground and police on the scene

By Lottie O'Neill

lottie.oneill@essexlive.news

SCHOOLCHILDREN were locked inside their classrooms for their safety when a group of men assaulted a woman outside a primary school in Harlow.

The incident took place outside Hare Street Primary School, along Little Grove Road.

The men approached the woman shortly after 2.30pm on Monday, and one of them assaulted her with what was believed to be a metal pole.

Ran off

The men then ran off towards Harbers Road and the Harvey Centre.

Sarah, a parent who was collecting her children, said: "I went to pick the children up and the gates were all shut.

"Three police cars were there and loads of officers outside.

"A lot of blood [was] outside the school and we were told [that they



Hare Street Primary School, Harlow
Photo: GOOGLE

had to) lock the children in the school.

"Not telling anybody what went on exactly, there were parents screaming saying 'let us get in and get to our children'.

"There was blood inside the grounds as well."

Investigations are currently ongoing and Essex Police put extra officer patrols in the area.

They are also appealing for witnesses or anyone with any

information.

The group of men were described as being in their late teens and early 20s.

Information

If you have information regarding the incident, contact Harlow police station on 101, quoting incident 514 of December 11.

Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 anonymously.

Man found dead in dead by parents had taken cannabis and morphine

A HARLOW man was found dead by his parents after drug misuse, an inquest heard.

Daniel Thomas Kelly, of Halling Hill, was 36 when he died on October 21.

An inquest into his death was opened on Wednesday

Mr Kelly's parents grew concerned of his welfare after failing to hear from their son, and, after gaining access to his

property, found him unresponsive in his bed.

An ambulance was called and paramedics arrived, but they sadly pronounced him dead at the scene.

Cause

A post mortem was carried out on October 21 at Princess Alexandra Hospital which determined the cause of death to

be respiratory failure due to aspiration pneumonia – when liquids, food, saliva or vomit is breathed into the lungs or airways – and drug misuse, as morphine and cannabis was found in his system.

The postmortem also declared that he had fatty liver disease.

The inquest has been adjourned until January 16 at 2pm.

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WEST GATE REDEVELOPMENT: Demolition work has begun to make way for Town centre will be transformed by major regeneration with new shops and housing



One of the areas of town that will be redeveloped

Photo: MARTINE XERRI

By James Gregory
james.gregory@essexlive.news

DEMOLITION work has begun at West Gate in Harlow after plans to knock down the buildings to make way for a new complex were unanimously approved by council members this week.

The area surrounding the popular shopping centre will be replaced with four new buildings ranging from three to sixteen storeys high, which will include retailers, offices and residential properties.

The application, made by owners Addington Capital, was approved by the regulatory committee at Harlow Council on Wednesday, December 6.

A total of 447 new homes will be built in the area surrounding the Harvey Centre in Broad Walk, Market Square and West Gate, as well as a pedestrian boulevard which would connect Broad Walk and West Gate.

Investment

The group first applied for planning permission in March and has consulted various council bodies as well as existing retailers and residents during that time.

Supporters of the scheme say it will transform Harlow's town centre and bring in much needed investment from high-end retailers.

It follows the demolition of former shopping walkway Little Walk, which was closed in January 2015 and is seen as a precursor to the latest development news.

A new pedestrian boulevard, which will connect Broad Walk and West Gate, will be in roughly the same location as Little Walk.

A spokesperson for Harlow Council said: "The town centre should be more than just a place to shop, but a place to live, work and

PLAN IN ACTION

- The new centre will have:
- 447 residential dwellings (26 x studios, 193 x 1 beds, 209 x 2beds and 19 x 3 beds)
- 4,000 sqm of retail space
- 354 car parking spaces (194 within the site and 160 within the multi-storey car park)
- 468 resident cycle spaces
- 59 visitor cycle spaces
- Balconies, courtyards and roof terraces
- Pedestrian boulevard to connect Broad Walk and West Gate

play as well as enhancing economic activity, prosperity and wellbeing.

"This redevelopment as a whole would act as a catalyst to draw in additional retail provision and trade, and would activate major regeneration to the north of the town centre."

Rolfe Judd, the architects behind the new design, say they have kept the essence of the original "new-town" design, whilst also giving it a modern twist.

Guy Harris, director of Rolfe Judd, which is behind Addington Capital's scheme, said: "This project has been both an exciting opportunity and also a challenge, working with such an iconic architectural design to conceive a scheme to retain the essence of the original design with a new interpretation."

"Throughout we have woven in many details to simultaneously capture the spirit of the past but set it on a course for the future."

Opticians giant Specsavers, which has a store in Broad Walk, which runs parallel to the Harvey Centre, has objected to the



A CGI of how the development in Harlow would look

proposals after it was revealed their building would be demolished to make way for the new development.

The store occupies all three floors in Harlow and raised three objections in the council meeting on Wednesday.

However, many have pointed to the potential this scheme has for the town as reason to support it.

Matt Dixon, a Torkildsen Way resident, said: "I support this development in the town centre. It's about time this part of town got some attention and it's nice to see this happening."



A blueprint of the plans for Harlow town centre

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a new complex with four buildings providing 447 homes, offices and retail units



Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Enterprise, said: "I'm pleased that the Development Management Committee decided that the application should be approved subject to conditions and a Section 106 Legal Agreement."

"The committee made it clear to the Harvey Centre owners about their expectations and we have confidence that the Harvey Centre owners will work with us to make a significant and positive change in this critical area and principally in regard to affordable housing."

"Now the decision has been made we can work hard to ensure the growth is beneficial to all of Harlow not just the new community."

Confidence

"The plan includes new shops and outlets as well as a range of new homes that the town needs."

"This scheme will boost the confidence of current and future retailers who want to invest in our town."

"I look forward to working in true partnership with the Harvey Centre owners

and welcome their commitment to Harlow."

The property group now has three years before the planning application expires.

It will have to pay £177,100 to NHS England to mitigate the impacts on the health service.

In addition, they will also have to pay £146,056 to the Infrastructure Planning Officer at Essex County Council for the impacts on Early Years and Childcare provision. A further £432,471 towards secondary schools would also have to be coughed up.



Areas of the town centre that will be transformed

Photos: MARTINE XERRI

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Motorist in trouble with police after travelling with only tiny gap in windscreen

Not the way to drive in snow...

By Alasdair Hooper
newsdesk@essexlive.news

A MOTORIST was reported for careless driving after only clearing a tiny gap in their snow-covered windscreen as Arctic weather descended on Harlow this week.

The driver's vision was severely impaired after only wiping the glass in front of their seat.

As a result he could only see through less than half of his windscreen – something that understandably caught the attention of police.

Traffic police pulled over the offending vehicle in Harlow shortly before midnight on Sunday.

In a tweet, Inspector Matt Allsop wrote: "My officers just came across this while on patrol in Harlow. Driver reported for careless driving!"



The snow covered car in Harlow which was pulled over by police

Parts of Essex saw up to 10cm (4in) of snow on Sunday, leading to road closures and travel problems across the county.

On Monday, more than 50 Essex schools were closed due to the weather.

Meanwhile authorities have responded to criticism from motorists who claimed they did not grit the roads.

Both Essex County Council and Highways England came under fire during the snow chaos.

Some even suggested that Essex County Council, the authority responsible for gritting 40 per cent of Essex's road network, had not done a proper job in advance of the adverse weather.

But a spokesman for the local authority said it had gritted the road at various intervals in preparation for the wintry conditions.

Councillor Ian Grundy, cabinet

member for highways, said: "Despite facing challenging conditions our gritter crews did a fantastic job yesterday with lorries going out five times in 24 hours to grit the roads and ensure the county's road network moving."

"On Sunday crews went out at 3am, 5am, mid-morning, early afternoon and again in the evening."

Moving

"It takes around three hours to grit the routes we are responsible for which meant our crews were on the road for a total of 15 out of 24 hours covering over 2,000 miles of road."

An Essex County Council statement read: "As well as our gritter crews, we have groups of farmers who use tractors with snow ploughs to clear more rural roads and lanes."

"Colleagues in the police and

fire service also help to keep the roads moving, even escorting gritter lorries to make sure they could re-stock on salt and get out again quickly."

"There are no issues with salt and grit supply – we are fully stocked and indeed, used a double concentration once the snow started to fall."

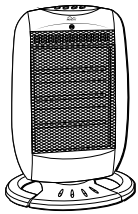
"Salt and grit becomes more effective when cars and lorries roll over it, so with lighter traffic yesterday, as it was a Sunday, this might have meant it took a little longer to become effective."

In response to complaints made about conditions on the A12, A120 and the A130, Essex County Council reminded their social media followers that the gritting of those roads is the responsibility Highways England.

Highways England has been approached for a comment.

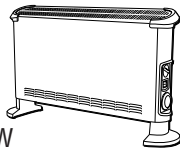
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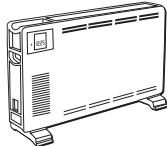
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EATING OUT: Fun restaurant has put a whole new experience on the menu

Can't decide on a sauce? Let the wheel choose...

By **Clare Youell**

clare.youell@essexlive.news

A FUN restaurant which offers customers chicken and a 'giant sauce wheel' has opened its doors in Harlow.

Sticky Sisters is a fast and casual dining chain which specialises in chicken served with a huge range of sauces.

The sauces range from cool or mild to hot or 'ferocious', allowing diners to customise their chicken experience.

If you simply can't decide which sauce to go for, there's even a giant gameshow-style wheel in the restaurant so you can take a spin and have whatever the wheel decides.

Customers can choose from dipping chicken wings or tenders, or a platter of chicken with chips. Other options include the 'In a Bun' range where you can go for chicken, beef brisket, fish fingers, chickpea and spinach or jammin' spicy bean.

Sticky Sisters is open for both eating in and takeaway service and it's in the Harvey Centre in Harlow.

Starters

There are also rustic-style Med wraps, salads, sides and desserts.

Starters include grizzly grickles (gherkin wedges), haloumi bites, king prawns and chicken man n cheese.

If you've got room after all that chicken, there are desserts too, including pecan chic, glazed warm mini doughnuts, vanilla cheesecake and cookie brownie ice cream.

Sticky Sisters is licensed too, so you can enjoy beer, wine or Prosecco with your meal, or choose a soft drink or one of their speciality milkshakes.

This is only the third Sticky Sisters restaurant in the UK with the other two diners in Farnborough and Leeds.

"We're excited to bring our range of sauces and fun dining experience to Harlow as we continue to build the Sticky Sisters brand," said Salim Jannomahmed, managing director at Sticky Sisters. "We'll be offering tasters and discounts to celebrate our open-



A selection of the dishes available and a glimpse of how the new restaurant will look

Photo: STICKY SISTERS

ON THE MENU

The sauces are:

COOL

- No 1 Smokin' BBQ
- No 2 Show me the Aioli
- No 3 Dreamy Garlic
- No 4 Cool Ranch
- No 5 Butter Lover

MILD

- No 6 Buffalo Kicker
- No 7 Zingtastic
- No 8 Piri Piri Perfection
- No 9 Cheesy Blue
- No 10 Sweet Thai Chillin'
- No 11 Creamy Curry

MEDIUM MILD

- No 12 Sticky Sisters (speciality blended aged cayenne chilli sauce)
- No 13 Sgt Peppercorn
- No 14 Honey, I Must
- No 15 Jigglin' Jalapeno
- No 16 Pepper Jam Slam

HOT

- No 17 Sriracha Sunrise
- No 18 Haawt Mustard
- No 19 Deep South Burner
- No 20 Shanghai Rocket
- No 21 Mango Madness

FEROCIOUS

- No 22 Blazin' BBQ
- No 23 Calypso Fire
- No 24 Habanero Heat
- No 25 Tearerker



The sides are pretty tasty too

ing and are looking forward to welcoming Harvey Centre visitors to our new restaurant."

The Harlow restaurant will cre-

ate 40 jobs, and there are plans to expand Sticky Sisters across the South East and the rest of the UK.



Would you dare to let the sauce wheel choose for you?

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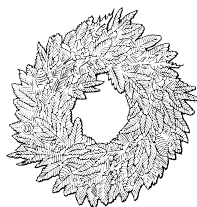
Cut Nordman Fir Christmas Tree
1.2 - 1.5m
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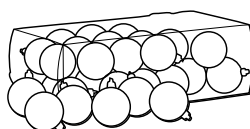
£5 HOME DELIVERY

On all Christmas trees



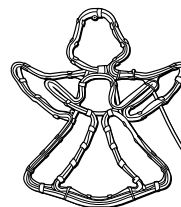
24" Holly and Berry Pre-Lit Wreath
Artificial.
437407

£18



36 Pack Baubles
Bronze.
447577

£3



LED Rope Angel Silhouette
470325

£15



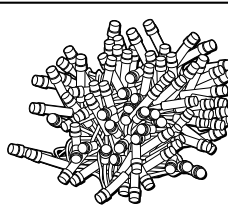
6ft Green Tear Drop Artificial.
447355

£24



Santa Gnome with Tree
482909

£10



100 LED Multi Colour String Lights
470208

£5



Jingle Bell Door Hanger
Gold.
447370

£3



Christmas Tree Stand
Green.
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3ft Green Geneva Artificial.
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Red.
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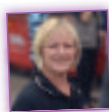
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Thank you for the many good times we shared xxxx

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Bereavements



EILEEN JONES (GINGE)

Sadly passed away on 29th November 2017, after a short illness. Eileen will be greatly missed by all her loving family and many friends.

The Funeral Service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium Chapel on Monday 18th December 2017 at 12.15pm.

Flowers or donations made payable to "Alzheimer's Society" may be sent c/o Albert English Funeral Directors, The Stow, Harlow, CM20 3AQ, Tel 01279 427362.

Bereavements

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Bereavements

Christopher GRAHAM

Chris died suddenly on Friday 1st December 2017, aged 18 years.

Dearly beloved Son of Pip and David, Brother of Oliver and Rebecca, and boyfriend of Jess, he is deeply missed by them all.

Funeral service to take place at St Mary's Church, Little Hallingbury on Thursday 21st December 2017 at 11.45 followed by a gathering at his home.

For further information, please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79 - 81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3AL, Tel: 01279 655477

Reginald HUNT 'Reg'

Passed away peacefully on 9th December 2017 aged 86 years.

Much loved husband of June, Dad to Mark & Sherrie and also a loving Grandad. For funeral details please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP, Tel: 01279 426990

Bereavements

David ROBERTS

Passed away peacefully, after much pain on Friday 1st December 2017.

Much loved Husband of Jean, Brother to Beryl and loved by so many friends. He will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral service to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 19th December at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only please, Donations to St. Clare Hospice may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990. Alternatively, please visit the 'In Memory page' at www.drobinson.co.uk



Betty SODEN

Peacefully passed on Monday 27th November 2017, aged 83 years.

Funeral service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Monday 18th December at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only please; Donations for Gibberd Ward, Princess Alexandra Hospital may be sent to Masterson Funeral Home, Station Road, Old Harlow CM17 0AS.



YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONLINE

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Emma Louise BISHOP

Passed away unexpectedly on 22nd November 2017 aged 36 years.

Devoted daughter to Kevin, Susan & Simon. A beloved sister of David, Briony & Megan. She will be sadly missed by all her family.

Funeral service to take place on Tuesday 19th December 2017 at Holy Trinity Church, Bishops Stortford at 10.00am followed by a burial in Bishops Stortford Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishops Stortford Herts CM23 3AL tel 01279 655477

Valerie DALTON

Sadly passed away on the 2nd December 2017 aged 80 years.

Much loved mum to Colin, Jenny and Tony and Nan to Stacey, Kayley, Sian, Luke, Skye, Lee, Joe and Max.

Funeral Service to be held at Parndon Wood Chapel on Friday 22nd December 2017 at 10:00am, followed by interment at Parndon Wood Cemetery at 10:45am. All welcome.

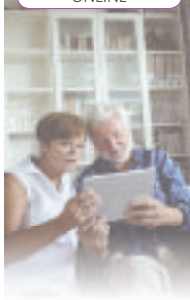
Megan ELLISTON (Meg)

Sadly passed away on Tuesday 28th November 2017 aged 94 Years.

Mother of Philip and Jacqueline Grandmother of Charlotte.

Jacqueline & Charlotte tragically taken from us 31st December 1990. All loved and missed forever Philip & Connie.

SHARE A DECADE OF MEMORIES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS ONLINE



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Georgia Lesley JACKSON



Tragically passed away in Brighton aged 21. Georgia is so deeply missed by her parents, step dad, step mum, brothers, sisters, family, her many friends and all who knew her.

For all information regarding Georgia's funeral service, please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons 3 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB Telephone 01279-722476

Pauline Mary LOUTH

Sadly passed away on Tuesday 28th November 2017 aged 87 Years.

Beloved Wife of the late Norman Louth Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends Enquiries, Flowers and Donations, made payable to 'Cancer Research UK', may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990 Alternatively, please visit the 'In memory page' at www.drobinson.co.uk

Ken MULLINGS

Sadly passed away on Tuesday 5th December aged 85 years. Much loved husband to Betty, dad to Andrew & Keith and grandad to Benn, Jack, Sam, George & Archie

He will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

The funeral service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on the 20th December at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations may be made to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford Herts CM23 3AL Tel 01279 655477

Iris Daisy STANNARD

Sadly passed away on 25th November 2017, aged 100 at home with her family around her.

She will be greatly missed.

Service to be held at St Mary's Church, Henham on 21st December 2017 at 11:30am.

Donations may be made payable to Cancer Research UK sent c/o

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Bereavements

Innes Christopher TAYLOR

Dearly loved son, brother and uncle, passed away on the 18th November 2017 aged 46.

His funeral is to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow on the 19th December 2017 at 12:15pm. All friends welcome. Refreshments, after the service, at The Horns and Horseshoes, Harlow Common.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, can be made in Innes's memory to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONLINE

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Bereavements

**Marjory TYLER 'Marg'**

Sadly passed away on Sunday 3rd December at Princess Alexandra Hospital Aged 97 Years. She will be sadly missed by Jim, Joan, Janet, Kevin, Kate, Paul, Carl, Charlie and all who knew her. The Funeral service will take place at St Mary's Church Stansted on Thursday 28th December at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only donations to St Clare Hospice may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3AL or Via In Memory page www.drobinson.co.uk

Acknowledgements

Nicholas Paul WHITTY (Nicki)

Helen and Nick would like to thank everyone for the many kind messages received following the death of their dear son Nicki and for the donations to the Dystonia Society. Please note that the family will also make a donation to the Society instead of sending Christmas cards this year.

Thanks also to staff of Daniel Robinson & Sons for their professionalism, patience and sensitivity throughout this very sad time.

In Memoriam

Peter David FLEET

In loving memory of a very dear husband, dad and grandad. Passed away 14th December 2013.

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

**In Memory Of PENNY ANNE WALKER**

25th April 1949 - 28th November 2017

From her loving family and friends

STAGGS LESLIE ALAN VICTOR

15th December 2008

Miss and love you everyday.

Steven, Maria, Antony, Emma and William

XXXXX

NORTON PATRICK JAMES (Jim)

31.01.1932 - 16.12.2013

Always on my mind.

Love Moyna x x x

STEVENSON Jennifer Rosemary — 12/12/88, A wonderful mother, never forgotten, always remembered. — Your loving Son Philip xx.

Birthday Memories

Reg SMITH

14.12.1957

Sad are the hearts that love you, sad are the tears that fall, but living our lives without you is the saddest part of all.

All our love Mum and Family XXXX



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Remembering your loved one

To some you may be forgotten,
To others you are part of the past,
But to us who have always loved you
That love will always last.
Your name we often mention,
Our thoughts are with you still,
You haven't been forgotten,
And I know you never will.

We didn't get to say goodbye
And in our hearts we know not why
God took you by his guiding hand
And took you to a better land,
But in our hearts you'll always stay.
Until we meet again, some day.
Rest in peace.

Our lips do not tell how we loved you.
Our hearts cannot tell how we feel.
But God only knows how we miss you
and this lonely feeling is real.
Lonely are our lives without you,
Life to us is not the same.
All the world would be like heaven
If we could have you back again.

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Salute to the outstanding educational progress of young students in Harlow

THE outstanding educational progress of 66 young people was recognised at the annual Harlow Educational Progress Awards held on Monday of last week at the Civic Centre.

The awards, organised by Harlow Council, reward and recognise young people who have made significant progress in their education and who have made a real contribution to their schools and the community. There was also a category for Harlow College students.

The awards are now in their fourth year and this year 66 young people were nominated for the progress and contributions they have made at different learning stages, often overcoming significant challenges to do so.

In front of a packed Council Chamber, the young people collected their awards from the former Chief Executive of Harlow Council, Malcolm Morley OBE.

Each young person was given a framed certificate and gift vouchers to mark their achievement.

Trophies were presented to



First place winners key stage 2 and 3 are pictured with former Chief Executive of Harlow Council, Malcolm Morley OBE, and Sue Livings, Chair of Harlow Council

winning schools and the overall winners of each key stage category.

Councillor Sue Livings, Chair of Harlow Council, said: "It was a great honour to be at the awards and to

celebrate the educational progress of 66 young people from Harlow.

"They can all be very proud of what they have achieved.

"They have done

themselves, their families and schools and the town proud.

"The awards have shown that this group of young people, and the town, has a very positive future."



Full list of the winners

Winners Key Stage 1-2

(29 award winners):

Overall winner for outstanding progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2: Shay Sutton (Potter Street Academy)

Winning school: Potter Street Academy

Winners Key Stage 2-3

(17 award winners):

Overall winner for outstanding progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3: Lauren Burgess (Burnt Mill Academy)

Winning school: Burnt Mill Academy

Winners Key Stage 3-4

(18 award winners):

Overall winner for outstanding progress between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4: Shannon Gumble (Stewards Academy)

Winning school: Stewards Academy

Harlow College Outstanding progression winner: Amy Howkins

Apprentice of the year: Lucy Chandler

Overall Harlow Educational Progress Awards winner: Shannon Gumble

Overall winning school: Stewards Academy

Harlow

■ **LIONS CLUB:** Harlow Lions Club would like to thank all who supported their recent Victorian Christmas Fair held at St John's ARC. Around £1,000 was raised on the day. The proceeds will be divided between equipment for the Wheelchair Athlete Squad, based at Mark Hall Sports Centre, PACT/ Autism and also to hampers for the elderly.

The event also celebrated the 30th anniversary of twinning between Harlow Lions and Ottersberg Lions Club of Germany.

We hosted six Ottersberg Lions over the weekend. A good time was had by all.

■ **CHRISTMAS EVENT:** Herts & Essex Community Farm will be hosting a free, family-friendly Christmas event at the Fold Croft site on Saturday, December 16 from 12 - 2pm.

There will be a free grotto where Mother Christmas and



Spring Snowdrops at Gibberd Gardens

her elves will be giving presents out to all children who can also be entertained by festive themed games and facepainting. Harlow's U3A choir will be

singing an array of traditional carols around 1pm for all to join in with. Mince pies, cakes, warm festive drinks and tea, coffee and hot chocolate will all be

available from the farm kitchen. In honour of Harlow's 70th Birthday they will be showcasing a photo gallery courtesy of Photos of Harlow

old and new, showing the town throughout the ages. Remember to dress warm and wear wellies as the site becomes very muddy in the winter months and the forecast is for a chilly day. They are very excited to be hosting their first ever Christmas event which they have decided to put on following the popular Halloween event where many of the visitors asked if they would do something for Christmas.

The farm is happy to be part of the thriving town and want to give back to the community in which they live. They know that Christmas can be a difficult time for many for a wide range of reasons, and they want to bring the community together in a free mini event which celebrates the town and the festive spirit.

■ **LEND A HAND:** The home of Harlow's masterplanner Sir Frederick Gibberd is looking for volunteers.

YOUR NEWS

■ We compile our Community News pages two weeks in advance of publication.

If you'd like to include a future event please make sure you tell us in plenty of time so our readers can come along.

The Gibberd Garden is searching for people to help with tasks from serving in the tea room and helping with events, to greeting visitors and taking payments.

Help is mainly required on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between April and the end of September.

If you would be interested please contact the Gibberd Garden on 01279 442112 or email gibberd gardennews@gmail.com



Overall winner, Shannon, with Stewards teacher Mrs Ginger



Second place key stage 1 and 2



Second place winners key stage 2 and 3



First place winners key stage 3 and 4

Top tips on how to achieve good science results

THE secret to success at a Harlow school has been shared with 1,400 senior teachers across the country.

Francis Collins, director of science for the Burnt Mill Academy Trust, was asked to speak at the PiXL (Partners in Excellence) conference at Westminster Hall.

PiXL provides opportunities for schools to share best practice and to raise standards, with two national conferences each year for the core subjects.

As one of just six speakers on the main stage, Mr Collins was asked to share an insight with heads of faculty into how Burnt Mill Academy, in Harlow, achieves high grades in science.

He said: "PiXL is an organisation run by teachers for teachers to share strategies to raise attainment and resources.

"I was invited to give a 15-minute talk to share our strategies on raising Year 11 attainment as we had such high results last year.

"The idea is for heads of faculty to take away new ideas to use with Year 11 within their own schools going forward.

"The feedback I have received has been great, with

lots of colleagues now asking to visit us to see the strategies in action."

Mr Collins, who oversees science at the Trust's primary and secondary schools in Harlow, Epping and Stansted, revealed details of the structure of study clubs, how data is used, how to promote independent revision and how mock exam papers are written and used in preparation for the summer's exams.

He said: "I have often sat in the audience at PiXL conferences.

"This was the biggest conference they have held so far. It was great to get out there and to promote what we are doing within BMAT.

"Sharing best practice is what my role is within BMAT so it is good to have the opportunity to share across PiXL.

"I have also picked up some new tried and tested strategies which we can use in our schools, so it was really worthwhile."

PiXL is a partnership of more than 1,700 secondary schools, 600 sixth forms, 500 primary schools and 75 providers of alternative education across the country.



Latton Green Primary School choir sing out for Christmas

Carols for Christmas delight at care centre

MEMBERS of Latton Green Primary School choir were honoured to sing for the residents of Abbott's Care Centre recently.

Miss Cranney, Class teacher said: "It was a fun-filled afternoon where we shared Christmas carols and some of the songs we performed at our recent Christmas concert.

"The residents enjoyed joining in with the traditional carols they knew and commented on how beautifully the children sang.

"This was a fantastic experience for both the children and residents – one which really got everyone in the festive mood."

YOUR PICTURES



Harlow Common by Munaza Zaib



Felmongers by
Michelle Clarke



Little Brays Harlow
by Sam Reed



Heading towards
Harlow town park by
Leah Marie Williamson

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NEWS.CO.UK

Dog walking in snow Harlow by Neil Evans



Great Parndon by Lorna Farrell



First snowfall
for a few years
by Ray Curtis
in Rosemount

MORE OF YOUR SNOW PHOTOGRAPHS **OVERLEAF**

YOUR PICTURES



The Water Gardens
by Ellie Bryant Webb



Park next to Bishopsfield by Vanessa Berry



Building a snowman
by Shana Haine

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@HERTSESSEX
NEWS.CO.UK

A squirrel in Harlow Town
Park by Ruth King, below



Harlow Town Park by Ruth King



Moorfield Staple Tye
by Ruby Horsnell



St Mary and St Hugh's Church this by Sinead Andrews



Town Park near Pets Corner by Lisa Coyle



Town Park by Leah Marie Williamson

FILM INTERVIEW

With Laura Harding

'There's no replacing Carrie'

As Star Wars: The Last Jedi finally arrives in cinemas, Carrie Fisher's last performance in her iconic role of Princess Leia is unveiled. The film's stars Mark Hamill, Daisy Ridley and John Boyega discuss life without her and taking the franchise forward

Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*

Photo: LUCASFILM



The famous score is playing, the logo is flashing, the opening crawl is scrolling across the giant movie screen and just like that, Star Wars is back, as if it had never been away.

It's been two years since *The Force Awakens*, the seventh instalment in the beloved franchise, reunited fans with heroes Han Solo, General Leia Organa and, for the briefest of tantalising moments, Luke Skywalker. It also introduced audiences around the world to a new generation of fighters to root for – Daisy Ridley's Rey, John Boyega's Finn, and Oscar Isaac's Poe Dameron.

While 2016's spin-off *Rogue One* might have filled the Star Wars-shaped hole in our lives, it is the arrival of an all new episode in the Skywalker story – this time Episode VIII: *The Last Jedi* – that will really sate our appetite for new adventure.

It will also answer those lingering questions about how the film will pay tribute to Carrie Fisher, who died aged 60, shortly after completing her final scenes

as Leia and just shy of a year before the film hits cinemas.

Mark Hamill, who has played her brother since the 1977 original, promises the latest instalment will be a fitting send-off.

"She's wonderful in the movie," he says. "She was such an integral part of the Star Wars family, there is no replacing her."

"We will always miss her, but I do know she would want us to enjoy it, she would want us to be laughing."

Leaning forward earnestly, he adds: "I know she would be moved by the outpouring of emotion around the world because everybody reacted to it like a loss in their own family but you're going to love her in the movie and I just wish she were here because we would be laughing right now if she were. I will never stop missing her."

Rian Johnson, who wrote and directed the film, is also anxious the film is a fitting tribute to a woman he admired so much.

"It's an extraordinary performance," he says reassuringly. "She's so



Carrie Fisher in her final role as General Leia Photo: LUCASFILM

beautiful in the movie.

"Obviously, we didn't know it was her last performance as Leia when we did it but I think it has some emotionally resonant things in there that I hope are really going to mean something for the fans."

Johnson is also committed to providing some twists and surprises for those fans, who are anxious to see how the saga plays out.

While Hamill's aged Skywalker appeared only fleetingly in *The Force*

Awakens, when he met Ridley's Rey on an isolated outpost in the middle of the ocean in the dramatic climax, he will feature more prominently in *The Last Jedi* and will return to the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon.

"He says in the trailer 'This is not going to go the way you think', so expect the unexpected," Hamill warns.

"I was shocked. What could have traumatised him? What could have

happened that he would wind up being this bitter elderly recluse?"

"It's really surprising – but just the fact that they could surprise me is credit to Rian Johnson's storytelling ability."

Johnson, best known for helming the film *Looper*, will soon be overseeing a new trilogy of Star Wars films that will explore far away corners of the galaxy unrelated to the Skywalker saga.

It is unlikely those films will include Ridley and Boyega, who have become international stars since they were cast as unknowns in *The Force Awakens*.

While they will both appear in the as-yet-untitled Episode XI, Ridley says: "I think in my mind I've already moved away from it."

"It just so happens I come back because there are a few of the films, but I did an awesome documentary and a Studio Ghibli [animated] film and *Murder On The Orient Express* just came out so I feel very, very lucky that people are giving me the opportunity to do other things."

Life has changed beyond recognition for the star, now 25, who adds it can be difficult to live up to the expectations of Star Wars fans: "The distinction can become blurry for people and ultimately that is a character, that is not me."

She continues: "I try and be brave and do all the things that Rey does but probably don't succeed as well. I'm sure it will get easier."

For Boyega, also 25, it's his timetable and travel schedule that have changed most since he became Finn.

"It's the schedule side of life that's a tad bit more busy," he says.

"Commitments I do have are not at home, they are always in different countries and that is something that takes getting used to."

But being a megastar certainly didn't stop him from showing off his moves at the Notting Hill Carnival earlier this year.

"I do my thing there and then go back into my hole," he laughs.

■ *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* is released in UK cinemas on Thursday December 14.

FILM REVIEWS

With Damon Smith



Daisy Ridley stars as Rey in *The Last Jedi*
Photo: Lucasfilm

FADING FORCE

STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (12A) ★★★★★

As the end credits roll on *Star Wars* Episode VIII: *The Last Jedi*, replete with a poignant on-screen tribute to "our princess Carrie Fisher", a bell tolls on nostalgia-steeped memories of George Lucas's epic space saga. If Episode VII: *The Force Awakens* excitedly crammed everything fans love into one giddily entertaining origin story, the next chapter directed by Rian Johnson accelerates towards a different kind of *Star Wars* experience.

"Let the past die. Kill it if you have to. That's the only way we can be who we are meant to be," proclaims masked antagonist Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) during one breathless stand-off.

His doom-laden words reverberate throughout Johnson's bloated, special effects-heavy picture.

Knockabout humour is imported from a Marvel Comics galaxy not so far, far away and doesn't always achieve lightspeed.

Classic slapstick between the Rebellion and First Order feels awkward when the punchline,

hanging over the verbal and to and fro, is genocide.

Cute critters called Porgs are employed to broadly comic effect like the Minions in *Despicable Me*, but are essentially a lucrative line in merchandising.

The Last Jedi doesn't sever ties completely with the past – there are reverential bows to *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, and Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher confidently bear the film's emotional weight to heart-tugging effect.

Their triumphs are, however, at the expense of fresh-faced fighters on both sides of the conflict.

Performances vary wildly.

One minute a character can be as wooden as the gnarled tree where Luke (Hamill) safeguards ancient Jedi texts, and moments later they milk tears of genuine emotion in gorgeous, glistening close-up.

Johnson's film is nothing if not frustratingly inconsistent.

The balance of power is delicately poised as Rey (Daisy Ridley) implores island recluse Luke to stand with his sister General Leia Organa (Fisher) in the war against Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) and his vengeful protegee, Kylo Ren.

Leia attempts to rein in reckless X-wing fighter pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) as the rebels are stalked by

General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) and the might of the First Order.

Meanwhile, stormtrooper Finn (John Boyega) and rebel crew member Rose Tico (Kelly Marie Tran) embark on a secret mission, and Snoke openly questions Kylo Ren's devotion to the dark side.

"You have too much of your father's heart in you," snarls Snoke. "You're no Vader. Alas, you're just a child in a mask!"

Star Wars has been hard-wired into my cultural DNA since childhood so *The Last Jedi* is a bitter pill.

It's certainly not a misstep on the scale of *The Phantom Menace*, and Johnson engineers some jaw-dropping set pieces including a visually stunning battle conducted on a salt plain that throws up plumes of red dust.

More is less in a flabby caper of contrivances and coincidences that clocks in at 152 minutes, uncomfortably and unnecessarily the longest instalment so far.

Some big questions that lingered at the end of Episode VII are answered, others remain tantalisingly out of reach.

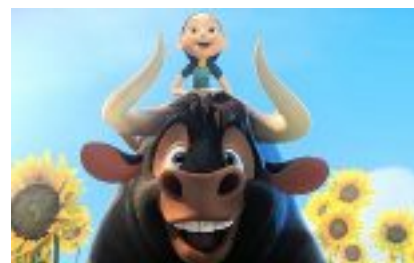
Two years hence, when the cataclysmic storm of Episode IX breaks, hopefully I'll be blown away again.



John Boyega as Finn in a ski speeder

Photo: ILM/Lucasfilm

ALSO OUT THIS WEEK



FERDINAND (U)
★★★★★

BAD things happen to inherently good computer-animated characters.

"It's a dog-eat-dog, bull-fight-bull, everybody-hate-goat world," laments one of the quirky, four-legged protagonists in director Carlos Saldanha's joyful coming-of-age story.

Based on the children's book *The Story Of Ferdinand* penned by Munro Leaf and illustrated by Robert Lawson, this entertaining if undemanding journey of self-discovery centres on a Spanish fighting bull, who prefers to smell the roses rather than stomp on them.

He refutes the laws of nature, which say he is destined to lock horns with a matador in the ring, and wants to be judged by the generosity in his heart not the potentially lethal power of his hooves.

Alas, creatures great and small are reluctant to see past his muscular physique.

Working from a linear script that repeatedly preaches open-mindedness and acceptance over prejudice and preconception, *Ferdinand* spins an engaging yarn that will happily stampede the affections of younger audiences.

Teenagers and parents may prove harder to wrangle in the absence of sophisticated humour and heart-tugging emotion to elevate the film into the bull pen of modern classics.

Ferdinand (voiced by John Cena) is raised at the Casa Del Toro alongside his hulking father Raf (Jeremy Sisto), who is selected to fight in the ring.

"I have to go, it's what every bull dreams of," beams the chest-puffing patriarch.

"Is it OK if it's not my dream?" nervously responds nature-loving Ferdinand.

When Raf fails to return, grief-stricken Ferdinand escapes his stable and runs away.

He is eventually adopted as an oversized pet by a girl called Nina (Katie Silverman) and her family.

During a visit to the local market, Ferdinand accidentally sits on a bee. A sharp sting causes him to rear up and locals flee in terror.

Police deem Ferdinand a public menace and, in a cruel twist of fate, he is returned to the Casa Del Toro, where he reunites with fellow bulls Valiente (Bobby Cannavale), Guapo (Peyton Manning) and Bones (Anthony Anderson), and a new addition, Angus (David Tennant).

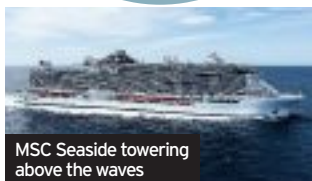
An old goat called Lupe (Kate MacKinnon) is enlisted as Ferdinand's trainer so he is fit to face legendary matador El Primero (Miguel Angel Silvestre).

"I've been waiting for this moment my whole flea-bitten, tin-chewing life," bleats Lupe.

Ferdinand unfolds at a trot rather than a gallop, complemented by colourful visuals and lively vocal performances.

MacKinnon sinks her teeth into the film's broadly comic role, chewing on amusing one-liners while Cena plays his misunderstood central character for pathos.

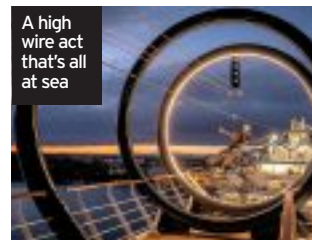
GETAWAY

TRAVEL
NEWSLATEST TRAVEL ADVICE,
OFFERS AND NEWSMSC Seaside towering
above the wavesYOU NEED A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS ON
WORLD'S NEWEST CRUISE SHIP

WHETHER it's hurtling down a 425ft zip line, crossing a glass-bottomed bridge above the ocean, spiralling down a water chute or edging along a rope course, you don't want a sudden attack of vertigo on MSC Seaside.

Of course, there's plenty else to do safely inside the ship, from shooting zombies in a virtual reality cinema or driving a Formula One simulator to going 10-pin bowling or taking in one of the seven spectacular theatre shows.

A seven-night winter sun voyage on the 4,100-passenger MSC leaving Miami on February 3, 2018, visiting Nassau, British Virgin Islands and Antigua, costs from £599 a person for a balcony cabin, excluding flights (0203 856 3023 mscruises.co.uk).



A high wire act that's all at sea

GIMME, GIMME, GIMME A HOLIDAY
TO A SECRET CROATIAN ISLAND

PRESTIGE Holidays has expanded its 2018 offering in the Balkan country to include the unspoiled Adriatic gem where the Mamma Mia movie sequel is being filmed.

Super troupers Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Amanda Seyfried are set to reprise their 2008 roles in Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, filmed on the island of Vis, with the release scheduled for July.

Vis was a Yugoslav military base for more than four decades and closed to foreign visitors until 1989. Also new for Croatia next year are getaways to the Zadar Riviera, including beautiful, historic Unesco-listed Zadar itself.

Croatia breaks start from £323 per person with flights and transfers. Visit prestige.holidays.co.uk for details.

A Star Wars
location to
Jedi for...

Star Wars: The Last Jedi is released on December 15. **NICK McAVANEY** travels to a galaxy not so far away to find out what's on offer in Skellig Michael

'M BOUNCING around our fishing boat with unbridled glee as we steer towards the Skellig Islands off the west coast of Ireland.

Christian monks inhabited the island for 500 years a millennium ago, but it was the arrival of the Millennium Falcon in 2015, in Star Wars: The Force Awakens, that has shot the small rocky outcrops to international stardom.

I do wonder what the monks of the Middle Ages would make of the sudden influx of Star Wars tourists, and the fact their monastery will feature as a Jedi outpost for Luke Skywalker in the latest Star Wars instalment, The Last Jedi.

Approaching Skellig Michael, the larger of the two islands, is a magical journey. There are loud squawks as we pull into the dock, and puffins zip past my ears as I wander along a cliff path to the foot of the ancient walkway leading up the mountainside.

Only 13 boats are licensed to make the journey to Skellig Michael, but they won't dock if the water is too rough. Thankfully, the Force is on my side and I'm one of the lucky 114 visitors that's allowed to walk on the protected island on the day of

my visit.

But we're still outnumbered by puffins at least 10 to one.

The delightful birds, with bright orange beaks and feet, are everywhere, poking their heads out of every nook and cranny along the hillside as I hike to the island's cradle.

Our guide tells me they're not used to human contact, and so appear fearless as I creep closer for a photo. They do, however, look extremely nervous when considering a flight out to sea.

They are the complete opposite of the gannets and petrels who also inhabit the island and soar majestically through the air above.

Using the slate steps as little runways, the puffins waddle towards the edge, pausing to consider their options, their saddened expressions silently asking: "Do I really have to do this?"



The 1,000-year-old monastery



Stepping up: A young girl dressed in a Star Wars costume on Skellig Michael



Daisy Ridley as Rey in the final scene of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, filmed on Skellig Michael

Then suddenly, they launch into the air flapping their wings madly and, without a hint of grace, plunge to the watery depths below.

I wonder if they fly so close to us because they are truly not scared, or simply because they are incapable of steering clear of obstacles while in flight.

Those returning to the island land with a thud, and then waddle towards their nests to answer the call of their chicks – an eerie 'moo' that sounds like a combination of a wounded cow and a lost sheep.

"The puffins come for the tourist season," our guide tells me as I head up the slated steps, as Rey – played by British actress Daisy Ridley – did on her journey to meet Luke, until I reach the island's cradle.

Rey must have run straight past Luke on her way to the monastery, which is further up beyond the point where they meet in the film.

I take a few minutes to soak up the splendid views out to Little Skellig and Co Kerry, posing on the spot with a lightsaber and Yoda toy that someone has thoughtfully brought with them.

Most people appear to be content with the cradle, but my journey is only half complete.

I continue to the 1,000-year-old monastery, leaving others behind. Being alone helps me understand why the monks built their small place of worship on this island, which they believed was at the end of the Earth.

I explore the six stone huts and small cemetery with childish enthusiasm, continually reminding myself this is where the greatest Jedi ever lived.

Ridley was sick for most of the time during filming for The Force Awakens, hotelier Gerard Kennedy tells me as we sit down for dinner in Portmagee later on.

"She was very nervous too," he says, although admits she appeared much more relaxed when the production crew returned in August 2015 to film scenes for Star Wars VIII.

He's also quick to point out there

NEED TO KNOW

■ For information on Skellig Michael visit failteireland.ie and for more on The Last Jedi film, see starwars.com



The island seen from the air



The rugged terrain on Skellig Michael



Puffins here are not used to human contact

were no A-list egos on show.

"They were both very down to earth. Mark Hamill (who of course plays Luke) even pulled a pint over there," he explains, pointing to one of their taps which now features in their Star Wars tour for guests.

Gerard humbly admits he didn't know anything about Star Wars when the production crew first arrived, needing his son to explain the famous franchise to him.

Even then, he still wasn't sure who Mark Hamill was when they left, but assures me he has a better grasp of the space saga and the Force now.

He has managed the Moorings hotel for 27 years and believes the Wild Atlantic Way driving route is mainly responsible for the area's popularity.

The following morning, I continue my journey along the Way to Valentia Island, which is seeing a resurgence in slate production thanks largely to a hefty order from

the British Government to redo the roofing on the Houses of Parliament.

A long time ago, before the slate quarry opened, a dinosaur left its footprints in a rock on the island's shore. Two separate and easily identifiable tracks were discovered by a geology undergraduate in 1993, and there is also evidence of the tetrapod's tail, carved around 385 million years ago.

Later that night, I witness something that may have taken just as long to arrive in our skies – not from another galaxy, but certainly from far, far away – as I join a stargazing experience at Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve, one of only three 'gold tier' reserves on the planet.

Every photon I see from the stars is absolutely unique, explains manager, Julie Ormond.

I feel privileged to be able to witness them, and take in a glimpse of Saturn and its stunning rings for the first time.

Like most of my childhood friends, I always wanted to be a Jedi Knight and, as an adult, this is probably the closest I'll ever get to realising that dream.

But even if I can't save the universe, at least I've found a small part of the planet that's out of this world.



CRUISE INTO THE NEW YEAR

CELEBRATE the festive season in style on board Braemar's Caribbean cruise. Enjoy a relaxing stress-free Christmas Day; visit a string of stunning paradise islands; and make unforgettable New Year's Eve memories, all on one 15-night adventure.

Fred. Olsen's 15-night M1731 'Caribbean Christmas & New Year' fly-cruise, departs from Manchester on December 21, via Bridgetown, Barbados.

Fly-cruise prices start from £2,299 per person (with limited availability). Cruise-only prices from £1,499 per person (with limited availability).

For more information visit fredolsencruises.com or call 0800 0355 242.

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MEN'S ROOM

Fine and Gandy

Top male model David Gandy is back with another range of loungewear for M&S. **EMMA JOHNSON** takes a look



Grey dressing gown with white piping £65



Print dressing gown £39.60, pyjama bottoms £27.50
*All clothes David Gandy for Autograph, available at Marks and Spencer and marksandspencer.com



Cashmere hooded top £150, cashmere joggers £150



Velour hooded top £39.50, velour joggers £29.50

*Prices correct at time of going to print. Offers available while stocks last

ON THE RADAR



Matt Smith in January's GQ

MATT'S THE WAY TO DO IT
MATT SMITH has been crowned (see what we did there?) best-dressed man for 2018. The former Doctor Who and star of Netflix's The Crown was given the honour by GQ magazine.

US rapper ASAP Rocky, movie legend Jeff Goldblum and singer Harry Styles and fellow British actor Andrew Garfield, round out the top five.

Also making the top 10 are Riz Ahmed, Ryan Reynolds, and grime artist Skepta, while Brooklyn Beckham squeaks in at number nine.

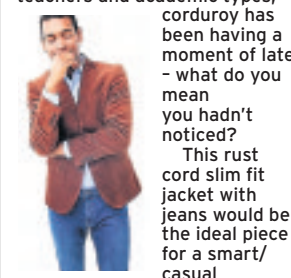
The news is not so good for Kit Harington though. The Game of Thrones star, right, was named worst-dressed man.



Seems he knows nothing... about fashion.

PULL THE CORD

NO LONGER the preserve of teachers and academic types, corduroy has been having a moment of late - what do you mean you hadn't noticed?



This rust cord slim fit jacket with jeans would be the ideal piece for a smart/casual

Christmas Day look. It also comes in sand and navy.

Find it at Next priced £150, next.co.uk

FULLY CHARGED SKINCARE

THE ideal stocking filler for dad, brother or friend - a Dove Men+Care's new grooming set packs in all the must-have bathroom essentials, to ensure every man can maintain hydrated and healthy-looking skin during the winter months. It also includes a portable phone charger!

You can find it at Superdrug priced £10.



TAKE 3
LEATHER GLOVES

SAVVY
John Rocha leather strap gloves now £24.50, Debenhams, debenhams.com



SPEND
Barbour with faux fur gloves £54.95, John Lewis, johnlewis.com



SPLURGE
Paul Smith leather signature stripe trim gloves £125, paul.smith.com



BEAUTY COUNTER

GORGEOUS GIFTS

BUYING FOR A BEAUTY FAN THIS CHRISTMAS? KATIE WRIGHT HAS GOT GIFTS TO SUIT EVERY TASTE

WHAT do you buy the beauty buff who has everything? The vast array of gift sets and special offers in the shops can sometimes be a hindrance, as much as a help, when you're trying to impress a make-up maven or perfume perfectionist. We've trawled through this year's offerings to find the unique and unusual gifts that will delight even the trickiest recipient this Christmas Day.

FOR THE LUXURY LOVER...

Hourglass Confession ultra slim high intensity refillable lipstick set, £48, Harvey Nichols. **OBVIOUSLY**, smoking is not in any way cool. But this shiny box from Hourglass, which comes with one long, thin golden lipstick holder and three interchangeable shades of lippie (and bears more than a passing resemblance to a packet of cigarettes) sure is.

FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE...

Button & Wilde personalised tarroco orange and nutmeg body lotion, £12.99, and wild citrus rose body scrub, £14.99 - other items not included buttonandwilde.com. **IF YOU** want to mark an extra special birthday or anniversary this Christmas, new brand Button & Wilde lets you create your own unique personalised gift set. Choose from a variety of bath and body products in six signature scents, add a photo and message (the soppiet the better, we reckon) to the bottles and they'll come wrapped in a pretty white cotton gift bag. For a festive feel, we recommend the spicy tarroco orange and nutmeg fragrance.

FOR THE FREQUENT FLYER...

Trinny London starter stack, £95 (trinnylondon.com). **FOR** the woman who's always hopping on a plane, TV presenter Trinny Woodall's new beauty venture offers little pots of multi-use products that you can stack together and chuck in your luggage.



Our gift selection is sure to please even the pickiest beauty buff
*Prices correct at time of going to print. Offers while stocks last

To take out the guesswork, select your recipient's hair, eye and skin colour on the website, and it will tell you which shades they need. Easy peasy.

FOR THE SKINCARE OBSESSIVE...

Gallinée The Happy Bacteria set, £49.90 (gallinee.com). **BY NOW**, we all know that probiotics are good for our health, but what about prebiotics? Impress the skincare buff who really knows her stuff with this trio from respected French brand Gallinée, which is worth £66.70, and also comes with a cookbook full of healthy recipes from nutritional therapist Antonia Magor.

FOR THE COSMETICS CEO IN THE MAKING...

Beauty Kitchen Raw Inventions ultimate invent your own beauty products kit, £50 (beautykitchen.co.uk). **KNOW** a youngster who thinks they could be the next Bobbi Brown or Charlotte Tilbury? With ingredients like cocoa butter, abyssinian oil and

beeswax, plus a bunch of pipettes and pots for mixing their concoctions up, this DIY tin could be the first step towards beauty world domination.

FOR THE MANI ADDICT...

Dior Diorific Vernis nail liner, £18.45, Escentual (escentual.com). **WHEN** it comes to nail varnish, it doesn't get much posher than Dior, and this season they've come up with something extra special. The brand's first ever nail liner, a glittery polish with gold, silver and platinum flecks, is here to add seasonal sparkle to manicures everywhere.

FOR THE VLOG-AHOLIC...

Zoeva Opulence eyeshadow palette, £18, Cult Beauty (cultbeauty.co.uk). **GOT** a niece or nephew who's addicted to YouTube make-up tutorials from the likes of Tanya Burr and James Charles? Then they'll scream with delight when they

unwrap Zoeva's latest creation, the stunning 10-shade Opulence palette, and promptly disappear to try and perfect their metallic smoky-eye look.

FOR THE LIPSTICK QUEEN...

MAC Snow Ball Shadescents kit, £30 (maccosmetics.co.uk). **PAIRING** an iconic lipstick with a rollerball fragrance inspired by the shade, this MAC duo comes in the most adorable pom-pom embellished pouch. It's available in classic Ruby Woo red, Candy Yum Yum pink and peachy Creme D'Nude, too.

FOR THE FRAGRANCE FANATIC...

Jean Paul Gaultier Classique Christmas Edition eau de toilette, £80 for 100ml, The Fragrance Shop (thefragranceshop.co.uk). **JPG'S** sexy Classique lady has been dolled up for Christmas this year in a raunchy red corset and nestled in a snow globe. Has she landed on Santa's naughty list this year? Only the big man knows for sure, but she's still filled with the same much-loved fragrance.



■ EVERY so often a product comes along that we find ourselves becoming completely obsessed with. Our latest obsession is **INIKI Certified Organic Lip Serum**. It has all the beauty of a lip gloss without any of the stickiness and with all the added benefits of a serum. Packed with hydrating certified organic jojoba, sunflower, and rosehip oils, it conditions lips and forms a protective barrier for long-lasting natural softness. If you prefer a little colour on your lips layer it over your favourite lipstick or lip liner. Available at feelunique.com priced £17.

■ STILL on the subject of lips, 'tis the season to wear red lippie. And they don't come much brighter than Rihanna's **Stunna Lip Paint Longwear Fluid Lip Colour** from her Fenty Beauty range which she says is the perfect shade of red, 'obsessively tested' to make sure it looks good on everyone. It promises 12-hour wear with an easy-to-apply soft matte pigment. Says Rihanna: "I wanted a lipstick that wouldn't budge - even as you eat, even as you make out." Find it at Harvey Nichols, harveynichols.com priced £19.

■ GOT a tanning obsessive in the family? Then make their Christmas Day with this **Cocoa Brown Christmas Cracker**. It contains the best-selling 1 Hour Tan Mousse and a tanning mitt perfect for getting them glowing in time for New Year's parties. Priced £9.95 at cloud10beauty.com

CELEB SECRET

WANT to smell like a princess-to-be? Apparently Meghan Markle doesn't leave the house without a generous spritz of **Oribe Côte d'Azur Eau de Parfum** (£65, spacenk.com), **Jo Malone's Wild Bluebell or Wood Sage & Sea Salt Cologne** (£90, jomalone.co.uk). As for that glowing skin, she doesn't wear foundation unless she's filming and uses **Laura Mercier Primer Radiance** (£30, johnlewis.com).



STYLE GUIDE

'Tis the season for sequins

IT JUST WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE SEQUIN-COVERED FROCK, WOULD IT? BY **KATIE WRIGHT**

SOMETIMES it's fun to push the boundaries with fashion and switch up your style, but when December rolls around there's only one thing on our minds: sparkly dresses.

Whether it's the office Christmas party or a big night out with your girl gang, everybody's got at least one occasion where a knock-out sequin-covered cocktail frock is basically the only option – which is why the shops are packed to the rafters right now with the kind of dresses that wouldn't look out of place on the Strictly dance floor.

This season, it's not just festive favourites silver and gold that

are dominating the sparkly market. Sapphire blue and regal purple are reminiscent of Christmas choccies (in a good way), while metallics like rose gold and copper offer a more subtle way to shine.

The bodycon silhouette is back (that'll be down to the AW17 Eighties catwalk trend), and we're seeing lots of cool sleeve detailing and longer length sleeves (a wise choice if you don't want to look too revealing at the work do).

Whatever your preference, there's a glittery showstopper out there for everyone. We've rounded up a dozen dazzling dresses that are all just perfect for party season...



1 New Look silver premium matte 2 in 1 sequin slip dress £39.99; dark grey ribbed funnel neck £9.99; pewter glitter clutch bag £15.99; silver tassel drop earrings £8.99

2 Wallis black sequin embellished cold shoulder shift dress £75

3 Wallis petite black sparkle flute sleeve dress £45

4 Studio by Preen purple sequin midi dress, currently reduced to £59.50 from £85, Debenhams

5 Monsoon Samantha 3/4 sleeve dress £109

7 Miss Selfridge premium sequin embellished one shoulder bodycon dress, currently reduced to £62.10 from £69

6 Marks and Spencer colour block embellished tunic dress £89

9 Bonprix beaded party dress £69.99 (shoes, stylist's own)

8 Sosandar sapphire sequin dress £89

10 Next gold sequin shift dress £65

11 Club L rose gold sequin bodycon dress £50, Topshop

12 Dorothy Perkins silver velvet sequin bodycon dress £38; black aristo sock boots £35



CELEBRITY WELLBEING

There have been days when I've broken down

Strictly finalist and singer Alexandra Burke tells **GABRIELLE FAGAN** how upset she has been by comments and criticism on social media

AT THE age of 12, singer Alexandra Burke won her first talent contest on BBC's *Star For A Night*, but her career really took off when she won *The X Factor* in 2008, beating boyband JLS and performing with Beyoncé in the final.

Since then she's sold more than four million records, is in the process of putting together her third album and has proved herself as a West End star with performances in *The Bodyguard* and *Sister Act The Musical*.

She has music in her blood, largely thanks to her mother Melissa Bell, who was a lead singer in Grammy-winning group Soul II Soul. The 29-year-old was devastated when her mother died in August, just as she'd achieved their shared dream of competing on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Here, Alexandra chats to us about social media trolls, dealing with loss and the nerves she suffers before dancing.

How do you look after your health and wellbeing?

A COUPLE of years ago I realised I'd put on a few pounds. It was happy 'love weight' because I was in a good relationship and in a settled place.

Since then, I decided it was time to take my health more seriously, because my mother suffered from diabetes.

I dropped around three dress sizes by going to the gym six times a week and eating more healthily. I've dropped another size on *Strictly* because 10 hours training a day is so intense.

I have a strong faith and I meditate. To de-stress in my dressing room I burn essential oils – lemongrass for my anxiety and lavender to relax. I aim to be positive, enjoy life and give it 100% and be thankful for every day.

How do you feel about your dance partner, Gorka Marquez?

HE'S such a fantastic person and we've got such a great connection that I haven't experienced before. We share the same star sign, Virgo, so we're both perfectionists who love to work really hard and know when it's time to chill.

It was his first year on *Strictly* last year and he went out in week three, so it's lovely we're both going on this journey for the first time. We want to make amazing memories and create something unforgettable to us

personally. I know we'll be friends for life.

What's it been like appearing in the show just after the loss of your mother?

IT'S been such a weird, tough time. The whole journey has been quite emotional, because of what I've gone through and am still going through. My mum wanted me to be on the show, so this her dream as well as mine.



In my head I always keep my family within me as they're so important to me. If they're

not in the studio, they're with me spiritually. Gorka's just been such a fantastic person to lean on during this time.

Do you think you could be the first person to win The X Factor and Strictly?

I WOULD never jinx it by answering that question! My motto is 'have low expectations but high hopes' and my mum always said: 'What's for you will never pass you by.'

The X Factor was scary because it's life-changing and I bared my all on the

show, which makes you feel vulnerable. This is scarier for me because I'm out of my comfort zone and don't have a song or a microphone to lean on.

People say that I've done shows before so I'm experienced, but *Strictly* is completely different.

It's well out of my control, which being in the dance off in week 10 proved.

I'm so nervous before each dance, I have sweaty palms and my knees knock together.

I feel the pressure of not wanting to let Gorka, my family or myself down because I love the show and have wanted to be on it for years.

How have you dealt with the criticism on social media claiming you're not 'genuine' and that you and Gorka had 'rows'?

YOU have to take it with a pinch of salt, but there have been days when I've broken down. I can't help sometimes reading the negative comments people have written on social media about me, and it can upset me, because I'm only human.

I've been on stage since the age of five and I've always wanted this career. I feel so lucky to have it, but there are downsides. I've been taught to have a thick skin and I try my best to control my feelings.

It's just such a shame that some people can't see how hard I'm working – there's nothing fake about that. Gorka and I know what the truth is and it's sad that untrue things are made up.

What does Christmas mean to you?

CHRISTMAS means everything to me. I also think it's a time to help others which is why I'm supporting a TK Maxx and Cancer Research UK Kids Teens campaign to raise money to help fund research into children's cancers.

My mum always made Christmas special, but our most memorable year was in Bahrain, where we lived for a few months. All the family was there and it was out of this world.

■ Alexandra Burke supported TK Maxx's take a festive sock selfie campaign to raise money for Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens.



1 CLEMENTINES are rich in minerals such as calcium, magnesium and phosphorous, keeping your bones healthy.

2 THEY contain vitamin C which is essential for collagen. This helps maintain healthy skin while folate is valuable during pregnancy for the unborn baby to protect it against neural tube defects.

3 THEY'RE a good source of fibre too which helps keep constipation at bay.

4 POTASSIUM in clementines helps to keep your blood pressure normal.



DOCTOR'S NOTES

■ SEVENTEEN million babies are breathing toxic air that could damage their brains, says UN children's agency Unicef.

Youngsters in South Asia are the worst affected by pollution that could undermine cognitive development.

■ LETTING kids lick the bowl after baking a cake could give them E. coli, the US Food and Drug Administration warns.

Grain used in uncooked flour can contain bacteria from animal droppings picked up during harvesting that are killed by baking.

■ MORE than a third of UK teenagers are dangerously overweight, according to a new report.

A University College London study of 12,000 children born since 2000 found 35% of 14-year-olds are obese, with girls most affected.

Stick it to 'em: Alexandra's sock selfie and, inset above, with her *Strictly* dance partner Gorka Marquez

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

WITH A STRING OF CELEBRITY FANS, THE MYSTICAL WORLD OF HEALING CRYSTALS HAS GONE MAINSTREAM PRACTICALLY OVERNIGHT. **LIZ CONNOR** DIGS DEEPER INTO THE TREND

ADELE holds them while she's performing live. Katy Perry sleeps with one next to her pillow. Victoria Beckham uses them backstage at her fashion shows.

We're not talking about the latest iPhone or expensive dog breed. These days, the accessory that celebrities won't travel without are some of the oldest materials on earth; healing crystals.

Crystals have been touted for their spiritually aligning properties for thousands of years (the Egyptians carved grave amulets in lazuli, clear quartz and carnelian), but thanks to A-listers and social media, they've had an unprecedented resurgence of late, practically becoming commonplace for today's wellness-smart Millennials.

Instagram's global footprint is living proof; the hashtag has been used more than six million times, mainly as a vehicle for 'crystal hauls' (the trend for 'gramming crystals and gemstones in artfully curated layouts). The industry is now reported to be worth well into the billions, with slick web stores trading in high-end crystals popping up at a rapid rate.

The so-called 'first wave' of healing minerals happened in the Seventies, but it gave the practice a bit of an unfair rep, thanks to its connotations of hippyish, ponytailed men and witchy women who'd give Stevie Nicks a run for her money.

Today, spirituality is as important as fitness to many young people, and with ancient practices like yoga and meditation hitting the mainstream, crystals are just the latest new-old thing we're giving more time to.

"It's not surprising," says Reeya Avani, a crystal therapist and dealer based in a well-heeled part of London's Mayfair (reeyaavani.com). "Today's teens feel like they have to be on top of everything, so there's a lot of peer pressure for them when it comes to technology and trends. They're counteracting this by falling back on the authentic, on what was."

She believes one of the biggest reasons why people have started to invest in the practice is our plugged-in, stressed-out culture, alongside a societal shift away from pharmaceuticals. "We don't want to be taking antidepressants anymore," Reeya says. "Why pop pills when you can heal yourself

Rock stars



No longer the preserve of the hippy fringe, crystals are often used in everyday life - partly thanks to celebrity enthusiasts



There are crystals for any situation. Amethyst helps absorb negative energy while clear quartz is infused with 'positive energy'

with something natural? This way of thinking is starting to make sense to people."

Reeya says her client base ranges from frazzled city workers looking for spiritual calm, to students who would rather spend money on their health than on a night out drinking during exam season.

Though there's little in terms of scientific evidence, the therapy is based on the premise that crystals have

highly-consistent molecular structures that can bring inconsistent energies, or 'blockages', back into harmony (a process known as 'entrainment').

Holistic therapists believe crystals have unique vibrational frequencies that can synchronise with the body in several ways, which is why they are thought to have different healing properties.

Lapis lazuli is good for back pain, Reeya tells me, while chrysocolla can soothe the aches and pains of arthritis. She uses green aventure, a pretty emerald-coloured gemstone, on clients with high cholesterol and blood pressure.

The emotional benefits are potent too: Rose quartz is believed to be good for love and healing a broken heart.

"I don't stay single for long," Katy Perry was quoted as telling

Cosmopolitan magazine. "I carry a lot of rose quartz, which attracts the male."

Amethyst is a good blanket fixer to promote positive thoughts and absorb bad energy, while blue lace agate and lepidolite is said to help calm the Millennial scourge; anxiety.

Reeya's Mayfair office is filled with crystals of all shapes and sizes, some of which - I discover while visiting for a treatment session of my own - have been organised to form a line leading onto the bed. This is called a 'crystal layout' - sort like a spiritual menu, with each stone lining up to a different area of the body.

She explains that crystals concentrate on seven chakras which run from the head to gut: the crown, third eyes, throat, heart, solar plexus, sacral and root. These are the centres through which energy flows in our bodies. A blocked chakra, Reeya explains, can result in mental and physical illness. She tells me she originally got into healing after going through a traumatic time in her life.

After a day of commuting and deadlines, I arrive for my 45-minute treatment flustered and stymied by a buzzing smartphone.

Reeya explains that she uses a mixture of Reiki and crystal healing to help clear the body of bad energy and reopen the pathway from crown to root - all I have to do is lie on the bed, hopefully in a deeply meditative state, while the stones are placed on my body.

The entire process is a divinely and deeply calming experience. Call it placebo if you will - but I could practically feel energy thrumming

through my body as Reeya worked from head to toe 'unblocking' my stressed-out chakras.

That night, I slept better than I had in months, and the next day felt energised, awake and calm.

There's homework to do afterwards. People who want to find Zen at home can meditate with the stones placed over their chakras on the body for 20 minutes per day.

Or, if you have limited time and patience - let's face it, we're all busy people - Reeya says you can simply place some crystals around your house and let them do their mystical business.

"Amethyst is brilliant," Reeya advises. "It's my favourite stone. I think everyone should have a big piece in their home or office, as it just absorbs the negative energy."

Next year, she will start supplying crystals to corporate offices in a bid to help tackle mental health in the workplace.

The beauty industry is also cottoning on - jade and pink quartz skin massage tools are a big trend for the coming year, while brands like Aveda, Kita, Prismologie and Kora Organics already sell products infused with 'positive energy' stones, like tourmaline and clear quartz.

Clearly, we've barely skimmed the surface of 'peak crystals', and 2018 looks set to be another landmark year in their meteoric rise.

One tip? Just don't go thinking that it's New Age.

"Celebrities have a massive impact on the public and what they do. Boy George was into crystals, and The Beatles were big on spirituality," says Reeya.

"But it's not new. It's old, sort of like going back to basics. People are just seeing it in a new light."

Rose quartz is good for healing a broken heart and love: Katy Perry believes it works for her

GETAWAY

MARCUS HUGHES says there are few pleasures equal to finding a hotel that truly captures the tranquil and leisurely atmosphere of the Channel Islands

TUCKED up behind the harbour of Jersey's breathtaking seaside capital of St Helier, The Club Hotel and Spa is one which invites you to set your concerns aside and indulge.

Stepping through its glass-fronted doors and sophisticated lobby draped with modern art, you find yourself standing a little taller.

Away from the noise of the traffic but just a five-minute walk from the picturesque harbour's wide range of bars, restaurants and clubs, the hotel boasts a truly unrivalled location.

Guests at the four-star townhouse hotel are offered access to a roof terrace champagne bar, a heated outdoor swimming pool, the luxurious Club Spa and, not least, the one Michelin starred Bohemia Restaurant.

The Club achieves a classy boutique styled interior with unique sculptures and striking primary-coloured rugs throughout.

Upstairs the sophistication carries through into The Club's 38 deluxe double rooms. Although in keeping with the neutral colour palette, chocolate and coffee-toned furnishings allow the rooms to feel a little separate.

Floor-to-ceiling windows bathe the rooms in natural light, and a sliding door invites you to get a whiff of the crisp sea air after a few too many glasses at the honesty bar.

As my partner got ready for our visit to the celebrated Bohemia restaurant, I lounged on the bed watching movies from the hotel's extensive DVD collection.

Eventually I managed to rouse myself from what was inarguably a



The beautiful coastline of St Helier, Jersey

YOU'LL WANT TO BE IN THIS CLUB

very tempting king-sized feather bed, and had a quick shower in the generously marbled bathroom.

Feeling every bit as glamorous as our surroundings, we slinked off downstairs for our reservation at the Bohemia.

The Bohemia has a solid reputation for first-rate cuisine and has been firmly placed on Jersey's gastronomic map. Chef Steve Smith has held a Michelin star since the age of just 24, and has headed Bohemia's kitchen team since 2013.

In that time, he's taken the dining experience to new heights. In September this year, the Bohemia became the first restaurant in Jersey to receive five AA rosettes, the highest a restaurant can achieve.

Favouring the full theatrical experience, we both opted for the eight-course vegetarian taster menu,

which came complete with recommendations on the wine list from our very attentive host.

First on the menu was potato, quail egg and cep, which sat in a beautifully sweet sauce.

Next came celeriac and celery soup, complete with a slow cooked bantam egg and garnished with a grated truffle. A large piece of truffle broke off into my soup as the waitress grated it and I shot a triumphant grin at my partner.

Our two main courses consisted of roscoff onion, with chanterelles and broad beans. This was my favourite, arriving bathed in a beautiful tasty gravy. The colourfully presented heritage carrot and sea vegetables were visually pleasing but I found it a slightly sickly combination with the saltiness of the vegetables.

My partner was struggling by this point, so we decided to forego the cheese course and get straight onto the desserts, which we read were named sixth best in the UK in the Sunday Times top 100.

They didn't disappoint. We started with a sharp, palate cleansing mango rice with vanilla and lime.

This was followed by a small guanaja chocolate cake, served with raspberry and almond.

We finished with a coffee each and were presented with a selection of

gorgeous hand-made chocolates that we couldn't quite refuse.

Feeling defeated, and with our glamour fading, we decided to sneak back up to the room to sleep it off.

As if we weren't pampered enough, the next morning we visited another highlight on offer at The Club – the spa.

Located just off the open-plan reception, the luxurious spa boasts four treatment rooms. We opted for two hour-long aromatic full body massages, making us eligible for the couples treatment room.

Having donned the prescribed black paper pants, I lay on the bench between two towels while I was gently, then rather roughly, slathered in aromatic oils.

It was a soothing experience, but

to both mine, and probably the masseur's, annoyance several prolonged giggling fits escaped my control throughout the hour.

She was patient and persistent though, and I left feeling like liquid with a skeleton.

With a few hours to kill before our afternoon tea, we crept downstairs to the deserted indoor saltwater pool, where we lounged and dipped for a happy three hours.

In all, if you're looking for a relaxing base for your adventures around St Helier and the island of Jersey, you should certainly consider putting The Club on your list.

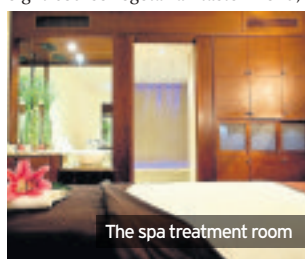
Its friendly and attentive staff are all too happy to assist with your every whim to make you feel welcome in their quiet corner haven.

NEED TO KNOW

■ There are 38 deluxe double rooms and eight suites at The Club Hotel & Spa. Rooms start from £99 for a standard double and £245 for a suite inclusive of breakfast. One Michelin-Starred restaurant The Bohemia is located downstairs.

■ For business guests, The Club Hotel & Spa offers a large meeting and banqueting room, with a conference table seating up to 34. Free parking and complimentary WIFI are also available.

■ The Club Hotel & Spa is located on Green Street in St Helier, Jersey. Call 01534 876 500 or visit theclubjersey.com



The spa treatment room



The Bohemia Restaurant has an impressive reputation

Jersey has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world – at low tide it nearly doubles in size

FOOD & DRINK

It started with a twist



TASTY & TOASTY

HONEY BAKED FETA
WITH LAVENDER, THYME
AND RYE CRISPS

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)
1 x 200g block feta cheese
1/2 loaf rye bread
4tbsp olive oil
1 garlic clove, halved
3-4tbsp runny honey
4 sprigs of thyme
2 sprigs of fresh lavender or
1/2tsp dried lavender
Sea salt and freshly ground
black pepper

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.
2. Cover the feta with two pieces of kitchen paper and leave at room temperature for one hour to absorb excess moisture.
3. Cut the rye bread into very thin slices. Place them in a single layer on two baking trays. Drizzle with the olive oil and rub each slice with a halved

garlic clove.
4. Bake the rye slices in the oven for seven to 10 minutes until lightly golden and crisp. Remove the rye crisps and turn the oven to its grill setting.
5. Remove the kitchen paper from the feta and place the feta in an ovenproof dish just large enough for it to fit in snugly. Drizzle the honey on top, then add the thyme and lavender. Season well with salt and pepper and grill for five to 10 minutes until golden.
6. Remove the cheese from the grill. Serve the feta immediately with the rye crisps.

THERE'S a difference between 'tampering' with classic recipes and 'improving' them, so says two-Michelin

starred chef, Marcus Wareing. The 47-year-old, best known for presenting MasterChef: The Professionals, and for running his three restaurants (Marcus at The Berkeley, The Gilbert Scott and Tredwells), has created a whole book based around that distinction.

New Classics, the follow-up tome to 2016's Marcus At Home, takes traditional favourites and puts a spin on them, as well as offering up original dishes the Southport-born chef hopes "could one day become classics in their own right".

Take his 'new' pineapple upside-down cake – a riff on the first thing he ever made in home economics at school.

"That day, it was all about the creaming method – creaming your butter and sugar together to make a basic sponge," he remembers. "You lined a tin with butter and greaseproof paper, then put your tinned pineapple rings in, your tinned glacé cherries in the holes in the pineapple, then put your mix on top, bake it, turn it out – and it's like, wow, hey presto – two or three actions and you've got yourself a fabulous-looking cake. So simple, but so much fun."

His 'new' version still uses tinned pineapple (although sadly no glacé cherries), plus the added bonus of a load of rum.

"I do have a fabulous sweet tooth. When I was growing up, fruit was a big part of our life," says Marcus, recommending his poached peach with oat crumb and ricotta pudding, and recalling beautiful figs he'd buy with his father, who supplied local corner shops and schools with produce. It's those memories driving Marcus' next venture: growing his own.

Chef Marcus Wareing is putting a fresh spin on some old favourites



OVER A SLICE OF PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE WITH RUM, MARCUS WAREING TELLS ELLA WALKER HOW HE HOPES TO INVENT SOME NEW CLASSICS

"As a chef in central London, and who's worked in cities, I just want to go back to my roots," he muses.

"As a boy, I used to spend a lot of time going round farms with my father. I'd see farmers digging up the raw produce, the carrots, the swedes, the potatoes, and the herbs and beetroot that we used to get – it was amazing, but I never really understood the growing aspect of it. I've missed

it, I really feel that I want to be part of that."

He's found a fairly big farm in Kent to develop. "I've got some apple orchards and bees, so I'm going to start producing my own honey, and we're getting ready for

the spring crop next year," says Marcus, buzzing at the prospect. "It's the first time I've ever done it in my life and I'm really excited."

The idea is that, long term, he'll have a kitchen garden to cook and write from, and "be inspired by what's in front of me".

In recent years, Marcus has been inspiring others as a judge on MasterChef, alongside the stern but brilliant Monica Galetti ("Would I fear Monica? No chance, haha. She'll probably hit me for saying that") and dessert aficionado Gregg Wallace.

We're currently halfway through season 10, although Marcus admits he's usually more interested in watching news and current affairs than cookery programmes himself, but does love Nigella ("She's amazing"), while the Hairys Bikers "just make me laugh".

"I'm looking for personality, for someone who really wants to be here in the kitchen; someone who's got ambition to really show us what they can do," he says on how he goes about identifying a winner.

"Our job is to open up their brains up and let them see what's possible when you get those creative juices flowing.

"It's on the job feedback at quite an intense pace," he adds, noting that some "really stunning cookery comes out towards the end – absolutely mind-blowingly exceptional".

■ NEW Classics: Inspiring And Delicious Recipes To Transform Your Home Cooking by Marcus Wareing, photography by Jonathan Gregson, is published by HarperCollins, priced £20. Available now.



I LOVE a glass of white all year round but there's nothing nicer than a glass of chilled white with a Christmas lunch seafood starter or your Boxing Day turkey curry. Here are some ideas.

CHRISTMAS CHOICES UNDER £10:

The Wine Atlas Cococciola (£5.48, Asda, 12.5% abv) This crisp, zesty, citrusy Italian white is super fresh and the light flavour would work well with a rich Christmas dinner or to help you relax on Christmas Eve.

Laurana Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore (£6.99, Lidl, 13.5% abv) Lidl has some great white wines this Christmas and this one has been declared "outstanding" by its Masters of Wine team. It has

RAISE A GLASS

WITH JANE CLARE



subtle complexity with layers of citrus fruit, some herbs and a really nice zing.

Taste the Difference Cote Du Rhone (£7, Sainsbury's, 12.5% abv)

An award-winning wine, a blend of grenache blanc, viognier, and roussanne grapes. They combine to create a slightly creamy wine with notes of stone fruit and a zest for life.

Cune White Rioja (reduced to £6.99, from £8.99, from

December 13 to January 3 at the Co-op, 13% abv) If you're having smoked salmon you won't go far wrong with a drop of this Rioja. It's a bit fruity with plenty of character, like Sid James in a Carry On film.

Tesco finest* Passerina 2016

(£6.50, Tesco, 13% abv) This wine isn't backward in coming forward with citrus notes and an underlying tropical treat of mandarin and peach. If you like sauvignon blanc and wines to make your mouth water, try it.

CHRISTMAS CHOICES OVER £10

Amalaya Torrontes Riesling 2017 (£10, Marks & Spencer, 13% abv) I love this wine from Argentina and it would love your turkey curry. It's a

veritable fruit hot pot of lemon, lime and grapefruit, with hints of honeysuckle and roses.

Chateau Souverain Chardonnay

(£10.99, Waitrose, 13.9% abv) Good chardonnays have depth and honey flavour but not to the point where it's like drinking a pot of golden syrup. This one gets the balance spot on. The honey is there, so too a hint of marigold (the flower, not the rubber glove) and a smear of good butter.

Generations Riesling Feinherb 2016 Axel Pauly (£14.99, valvonacrolla.co.uk, 11% abv) Axel Pauly is one of the rising stars of German wine and he has created a wine ripe with

apples, crisp with good acidity and a delightful fruity finish. Great for a Boxing Day curry or Christmas Day seafood.

Bourgogne Blanc Domaine

Bachey-Legros (£15, winetrust 100.co.uk, 13.5% abv) is a classic Burgundy from chardonnay grapes with vanilla, honey, butter, apples and stone fruit. It has a creamy note which makes it ideal to pair with a crab mousse or that classic starter, prawn cocktail.

McHenry Hohnen Amigo White

2012 (£15.99, winedirect.co.uk, 13.5% abv) This Australian wine, a blend of chardonnay, marsanne and roussanne, is a wow with salmon. It has notes of peaches, nuts and waxy lemons with a heartbeat of minerality.



INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)
3tsp harissa paste
4tbsp olive oil
4 lamb rumps, brined
2tbsp vegetable oil
30g pistachio nuts, toasted and roughly chopped

For the chutney:

6tbsp malt vinegar
2tsp caster sugar
4 shallots, finely sliced
4tbsp olive oil
1 bunch of mint, leaves separated and finely chopped

For the yoghurt dressing:

150g Greek yoghurt
1/4 cucumber, grated
1tsp cumin seeds, toasted and crushed sea salt

METHOD

1. Mix two teaspoons of the harissa paste with the olive oil. Rinse the brined lamb rumps under cold running water and pat them dry with kitchen paper. Rub the harissa mix over the lamb rumps, place them in a container and chill for at least six hours (up to 12 hours).
2. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.

**WARM & ROASTY**

**HARISSA-MARINATED LAMB
WITH MINT CHUTNEY,
PISTACHIOS AND YOGHURT**

3. To make the fresh mint chutney, heat the malt vinegar in a small saucepan. Add the sugar and dissolve over medium heat. Remove the pan from the heat and add the shallots. When cool, add the oil and set aside until ready to use.

4. To make the yoghurt dressing, mix all ingredients together in a bowl with the last teaspoon of harissa paste and season to taste.

5. Heat the vegetable oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. When hot, place the lamb rumps, fat side down, in the pan. Cook for five to eight minutes, until the fat begins to render and

turn a lovely golden brown. Turn the rumps over and seal on all the other sides for a further five minutes, then place them on a foil-lined dish in the oven. Bake for five to 10 minutes, depending on how pink you like your lamb. Remove from the oven, cover with foil and leave somewhere warm to rest for five minutes.

6. Finish the mint chutney by adding the chopped fresh mint.

7. Serve the lamb rumps with the mint chutney and yoghurt dressing, sprinkled with the pistachio nuts. Serve with a large green salad or roasted vegetables.

**FRUITY BEAUTY**

**PLUM
CLAFOUTIS**

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)
50g butter, plus extra for greasing
4tbsp demerara sugar
6 ripe plums, halved and stones removed
150ml double cream
150ml milk
Seeds from 1 vanilla pod
Grated zest of 1 lemon
2 eggs
45g caster sugar
45g plain flour
1tbsp icing sugar, for dusting
ice cream, to serve

METHOD

1. Lightly grease four 12-13cm ovenproof blini pans or ramekins with butter. Preheat the oven to

180°C/160°C fan/gas 4.

2. Put the demerara sugar in a small, heavy-based saucepan or frying pan. Place over a medium heat and leave to melt and caramelise to a deep golden colour, swirling the pan occasionally (do not stir) to get even caramelisation – this will take five to eight minutes. Add the butter, whisk well and simmer for one to two minutes until well combined.

3. Pour a quarter of the caramel into each blini pan or ramekin then quickly, while the caramel is still hot, place three plum halves, cut side down, into the caramel.

4. Put the cream, milk, vanilla seeds and lemon zest in a small saucepan and gently bring to the boil. Remove from the heat.
5. In a deep bowl, whisk together the eggs and sugar. Whisk in the flour, then gradually add the hot milk and cream, whisking continuously.

6. Pour the batter over the plums in each pan or ramekin then place in the oven for around 15 minutes, until golden and cooked through.

7. Remove from the oven, dust with icing sugar and serve immediately with your favourite ice cream.

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CASHING IN

Should delay in complaining cost me a TV?

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Which?

Q I BOUGHT a 50-inch screen HiSense TV from Currys online at the end of August, paying £499. It was delivered the next day but because I had a fractured toe at that time, I was more or less immobile and I certainly could not cope with the effort needed to unpack a huge television set so it was left in its box, and was not checked.

Last week, I felt better so I got a TV installer to come round to fix it onto the wall, and link it to Sky TV.

But on unpacking it, there was a big crack across the screen and the frame was bent on one side. It was a total disaster.

We repacked it and I phoned Currys customer services to explain the situation. They told me because I had left it two and a half months to check the set there was nothing they could do about this.

Surely as the set was either damaged before or during delivery it is down to Currys to sort this out. Could you please advise me on this.

Trevor E

A WHICH? SAYS: Retailers delivering large items should offer to unpack them and take away boxes and other wrappings – unless the customer decides otherwise. This should apply whether you have a lack of mobility or not, and irrespective of how many people are in your home.

Currys customer service was right in saying you were outside the 30 day “right to reject” limit but should have told you of your right to give the retailer one opportunity to repair or replace goods which, in this case, are “unfit for purpose”.

You could not have damaged the set yourself – and you have a witness anyway to the state of the set when it was unpacked.

The store will now contact you to arrange delivery of a replacement TV – or a full refund if you no longer need the set. It says: “We have agreed to exchange the TV. Crews normally offer unpacking for inspection and removal of rubbish if being left unpacked and we apologise if this was not the case in this instance. Our service team will contact him to arrange a delivery.”

In the worst case, you could have asked your credit card company to arrange a refund under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. But you are happy now.

Choose your champers

Sainsbury's Winemaker's Selection Blanc de Blancs Brut Champagne NV
£20, but £16 from Dec 13 until Jan 1

Made purely from the chardonnay grape, so you get a good burst of apples. Aromas of ripe red apples – and baked crusty apples too, as if cooked down in a tarte tatin.

Verdict: Creamy toffee notes like creme brulee



☆☆☆

Tesco finest* Premier Cru Champagne NV
£19, Tesco

This wine shone out and I was entranced by its many aromas. Butterscotch, toasted pineapple, squished ripe apples and a suggestion of custard creams are all present. A special festive fizz; perhaps one to greet Christmas Day guests.

Verdict: Lovely aroma, butter, vanilla



☆☆☆☆

Waitrose Blanc de Noirs Brut NV Champagne
£21.99, Waitrose

Light and refined, with a subtle floral note, red apples, vanilla and persistent bubbles. The best value sparkling wine under £25 in the International Wine Challenge awards.

Verdict: Light, very dry, like it



☆☆☆

Les Pionniers NV Co-op, £16.99

Les Pionniers is the Co-op's own-brand champagne, made for them by top champagne producer Piper Heidsieck. It has aromas of pears and apples and a creamy nuttiness with a lively refreshing acidity. It makes a regular appearance in my household!

Verdict: Appley, very nice



☆☆☆

WHICH FIZZ WILL BE OUR TOP OF THE POPS?

Wine writer **JANE CLARE** blind-tasted supermarket bubbly with a few of Santa's Little Helpers. Here, she shares her thoughts and the tasters' verdicts



Extra Special Louis Bernard Champagne Premier Cru NV
£19, Adsa

The wine is giddy in the glass with exuberant bubbles; then pretty floral aromas are the first to reach you followed by subtle notes of vanilla, brioche, pears and red apples. Very tasty.

Verdict: A light champagne



☆☆☆

Louis Vertay Brut NV Marks & Spencer, £17 down from £34 until Jan 1

At full price, this is the most expensive of the champagnes in the blind tasting, though I'd be disappointed if I paid top dollar. Its fruity notes edged towards the tropical, as I sensed papaya and a dryer note of gooseberry. A light champagne, soft and subtle.

Verdict: Forgettable but not unlikeable



☆☆

Champagne Comte De Senneval Lidl, £10.99

Hello world, say the bubbles, and there's a steady stream of them once you pop the cork. On the nose it is pretty understated but there is baked apples and pears and a touch of biscuit.

Verdict: Very bubbly, fun fizz



☆☆

Marquis de Belrive Champagne Brut Reserve
£16, Spar

Delicious. One of Santa's Little Helpers kept going back for a bit more. It's complex, with vanilla, toasty brioche and baked apples. There were sweet undertones with caramel and (bear with me) Twiglets.

Verdict: A favourite



☆☆☆☆

Champagne Veuve Monsigny Aldi, £10.99

Often topping consumer taste tests. It's crisp, with citrus notes upfront, red apples, vanilla, and apple crumble. It's a good value fizz for celebrations.

Verdict: Fruity and plenty of fizz



☆☆☆☆

Morrison's The Best Brut Champagne
Morrison's, £17, down from £19 until January 2

Highly drinkable, good for people who don't want champers to be a tastebud challenge. Stewed apples and lemony citrus were my takeaway.

Verdict: Tastes like dried apple chips



☆☆



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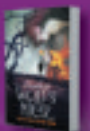
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PUZZLE TIME

Pathfinder

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Cheese

M S H R M M E T I O Q F O A N
A R A O A D R S N R U E R S W
S C D P S R E I K P O P T E E
R A D E H I E N I S H A R M N
P O N H E R L G B E L A E L S
L E E C B L N A M M O D Y H A
I I A L L U E T S T N A C K L
M R B R E O M N U E Y J U O L
B G E A Z Z R T H R E I M H O
U R R C M B E R E S L J O C N
A M G O E M A C T B R A L T S
N C R R N I C E S E R E B I L
E H A Y I E L D O D G R T S T
G O R H S O L E U E G R E E O
O G G O N Z A R B L L O U C N

Split Decision

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

R	B	L	P	R	A	C	X	R	K
O	A			L	E			I	U
K	R	E	N	O	S	W	I	R	N
E	T			N	E			D	S
R	S	H	F	T	E	D	C	S	E

Sudoku

There is one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

		7		6				5
	6		7			3	4	1
	1	9	8		7			
2				3	6	9		
					9	2	1	
	9	4	6	2				8
9		2			7	8	5	
8	3	5		4				
7		9					2	

Hard

	6	4		2		9	7	
			6		8			
7								1
	5					4		
4			7		3			6
	7						5	
9								7
			2		9			
	2	5		4		6	8	

Two Speed Crossword

This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid. If you can't solve the Cryptic clue, try the Quick.

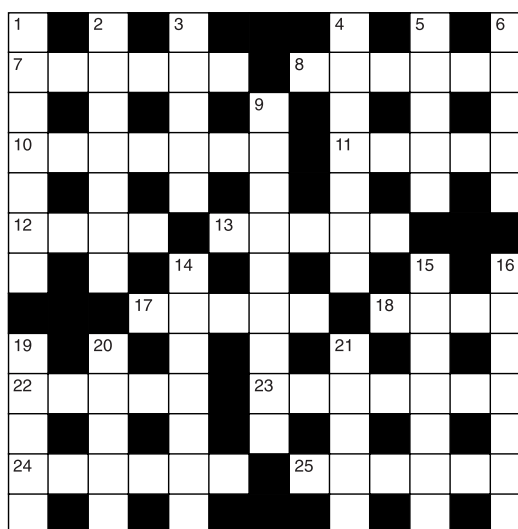
Cryptic

Across

- See 22 Across.
- 8 & 12Ac. Cottonwood could produce a proper tale (6,4)
- The couple will have me back to show affection (7)
- Stupid description of well-forested area (5)
- See 8 Across.
- Loose name for fuel (5)
- See 23 Across.
- See 2 Down.
- 22 & 7Ac. Have a convivial fling? (5,1,5)
- 23 & 17Ac. A quick mover keeping to the rails (7,5)
- Leave drought-stricken area (6)
- Sundry underwater operators (6)

Down

- Regal splendour is something to amuse one in springtime (7)
- 2 & 18Ac. Trailer covered with prickles - hiker didn't remain seated! (7,4)
- Southern hardwood is meaty stuff (5)
- Use the stick - this will produce behaviour (7)
- Aircraft to level out (5)
- Carrying a gun, but 'urt, apparently! (5)
- They provide opportunities for taking courses (4-5)
- In which you'll find storage space for underclothing! (7)
- Threatened by a gunman, but insured (7)
- Keep on upsetting priests (7)
- Look contemplatively at a musical exercise (5)
- Petulant enough to change sides (5)
- Rent a Dalmatian holiday resort (5)



Scribble pad

Quick

Across

- See 22 Across.
- Aspen (6)
- Hug (7)
- Thick (5)
- Large plant (4)
- Loose (5)
- Coach (5)
- Flower (4)
- 22 and 7. Organise a celebration (5,1,5)
- Show (7)
- Abandon (6)
- Frogmen (6)

Down

- Grandeur (7)
- Walker (7)
- Cut of meat (5)
- Behaviour (7)
- Levelling tool (5)
- Having a weapon (5)
- Dinner breaks (4-5)
- Chest compartments (7)
- Concealed (7)
- Continue (7)
- Learn (5)
- Crucifix (5)
- Divide (5)

Codeword

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

1			25		5	18	24	25	14	4	1	22
6	15	14	16			3		16		22		14
	24		20	16	8	22	24	13		21	25	4
7	22	24	14					1		24		20
			3		25	19	3	22	2	3	18	13
17	6	20	5	9		3		24		2		13
24		16			17	25	23			21		22
20		26		21		24		5	16	22	22	24
21	3	25	24	25	16	13	15		15			
21		14		10				14	15	13	6	
1	11	11		22	16	18	25	14	7		3	
22		3		4		11		6	25	18	9	
2	20	5	12	11	20	16	13		5		9	

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				S								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						I						

Wordsquare

Give yourself ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the grid. Each word must use the central letter and at least 3 others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate:

15 words - average; 25 words - good; 35 words - very good; 40 or more - excellent.

B	G	D
I	U	N
R	E	N

Quiz

- Which documentary series on the National Geographic Channel is narrated by Laurence Fishburne and looks at human life many, many years in the future?
- What is the second book of the Old Testament?
- Which trophy is awarded to the winning team in cricket matches between England and Australia? By what name were the Nazi secret police formed in 1933 known?



Q1 - Laurence Fishburne

- What name is given to a straight line that touches a curve at only one point?
- Which fruit may be eaten dried as prunes?
- What does the paranormal term ESP stand for?
- Which German-Jewish girl wrote a diary while hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam?
- In which English city is the Ashmolean museum?
- Of which sport is sculling a form?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Pathfinder

Rude Boy, Shut Up and Drive, We Found Love, Only Girl In the World, Diamonds, Princess of China, Live Your Life, Unfaithful, Pon de Replay, Disturbia, Where Have You Been, Run This Town, SOS, What's My Name?, Umbrella, Hate That I Love You, Take a Bow, Russian Roulette, We Ride, Don't Stop the Music.

Quiz

- Diana and I; 2. Paraguay; 3. 52;
- Arthur Ashe; 5. Bill of Rights;
- Israel; 7. Benjamin Franklin;
- Alsatian; 9. Saint George; 10. Royal Academy.

Sudoku

3	1	2	9	4	8	7	5	6
4	6	5	3	2	7	1	8	9
8	7	9	1	6	5	2	4	3
6	3	8	2	7	1	5	9	4
9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3	7
5	4	7	8	3	9	6	2	1
2	9	4	7	8	6	3	1	5
7	5	3	4	1	2	9	6	8
1	8	6	5	9	3	4	7	2

7	2	8	6	5	9	4	3	1
6	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	5
4	9	5	8	3	1	7	2	6
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	2
8	5	1	4	6	2	3	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	3	5	4	8
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Codeword

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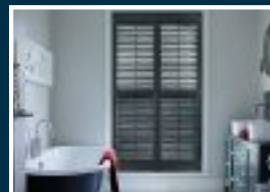
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

ESSEXLIVE.NEWS/PROPERTY

PROPERTY & LIVING



CUTER SHUTTERS

Don't be afraid to use a bit of colour to brighten up your windows

PAGES 40&41



SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Although summer may seem a long time off, this Harlow home has the perfect garden to relax and enjoy the warm evenings thanks to its huge size and attractive landscaping. PAGES 38&39



HOT HOUSE



An extended four bedroom home in Harlow has gone on the market in an ideal location for families and commuters. The detached house is situated within a cul-de-sac on Herons Wood and is just half a mile away from Harlow Town train station. The spacious property also boasts an outstanding garden with excellent depth, and internal viewing is highly-recommended by the estate agent.

As you enter through the entrance hall, the door to the left takes you through into a large lounge. It's an attractive room with two double radiators and plenty of windows to allow natural light to flood in. It also features a solid oak floor as well as a gas fire for cold winter nights.

As you turn back into the entrance hall you pass the door that leads into the smartly presented dining room before turning into the kitchen. Adjacent to the kitchen you can find a utility room as well as a useful study area, complete with solid wood flooring and featuring a beautiful view of the garden. Also on the ground floor is a small toilet.

The first floor comprises four good-sized bedrooms with the main bedroom sized at 15' 11" x 11' 1". The bathroom completes the upstairs comprising of a full white suite chrome towel rail, a panelled bath with shower screen, low flush WC and a wash hand basin.

The outside garden remains a huge selling point thanks to its huge size and attractive landscaping.

This Herons Wood house is on the market with Centurion Property and is valued at £490,000. Contact them on 01279 400444.



YOUR HOME

Shutter-ly brilliant...

If you're set on shutters, but not sure if you should venture away from white, **LOUISE O'BRYAN** suggests that you take a look at these stunners

The popularity of window shutters continues to grow thanks to their modern-classic appeal and practical design.

While white shutters are still the go-to option for creating a clean and simple look, coloured ones are also becoming a popular decorating choice for followers of interiors trends.

In contrast to simple white shutters, coloured designs will be a standout feature in any room, bringing vibrance,



interest and character to the space.

Still unsure about going for a colour? These inspiring interiors will help you to decide.

■ Louise O'Bryan is a contributor at Houzz. Visit Houzz.co.uk for more design inspiration and home-improvement advice.



LEAVE ROOM TO GROW

Decorating a child's room so it will adapt as they grow up can be a tricky challenge. One solution is to keep most of the walls and the flooring neutral and introduce a colour at the window shutters. Choose a timeless, versatile hue, such as a soft pastel shade, that will work with different room schemes over time, not to mention make a great feature in a guest bedroom when your child eventually flies the nest!

■ Image: Hillarys



PICK A MOODY TONE

You could make a feature of dark shutters in a neutral room. This modern-classic bathroom embraces heritage details alongside contemporary styling, and the rich grey colour on the shutters tones beautifully with the bath and sink unit.

■ Image: Hillarys



ADD A FRENCH TWIST

Oozing romance and charm, these classic grey shutters evoke images of grand French chateaux and are also ideal if you want to create a modern country scheme in your bedroom. Continue the rustic look with painted wood furniture, while natural linen will add a welcoming homespun touch.

■ Image: Loaf.com



ENCOURAGE COHESION

If bold coloured shutters aren't going to work in your kitchen and you'd like something a little more subtle, try colour matching them with your units. If your shutter company offers a customised colour service, ask them to spray or stain your shutters to match your units or woodwork to create a co-ordinated scheme.

■ Image: Treyone



CELEBRATE SLEEK CITY LIVING

If you'd prefer a more slick urban look that will add a chic designer feel to your space, consider dark shutters. You just need to team this lavish window treatment with other rich finishes, such as dark wood flooring and glossy black worktops, and you'll have a sleek, penthouse-style pad that's ideal for entertaining.

■ Image: McCarron & Co



COLOUR YOUR BEDROOM HAPPY

Yellow can be an incredibly positive and upbeat colour, and when it's used at the windows the intensity of this smiley hue becomes even more vibrant. If you want to add a touch of sunshine to your sleep space, and ensure you wake up with a cheery disposition each morning, then you can't go wrong with striking yellow shutters. Just keep the rest of the room's colours low-key and you'll hit a happy balance.

■ Image: California Shutters

REFRESH WITH A LEAFY SHADE

Thanks to the growing trend for houseplants, and Pantone naming Greenery as its Colour of the Year 2017, green has had a bit of a resurgence in popularity. This image shows just how good it is at bringing a fresh, outdoorsy-feel to a room. These botanical-inspired shutters inject instant vitality into this neutral living space.

■ Image: Shutterly Fabulous



BUILD A RESTFUL RETREAT

Turn down the tempo in your bedroom with cocooning tones all around, including the windows. When teamed with the darker walls, these misty grey shutters bring a nurturing feel to the space, making a perfect bold-yet-subtle statement. To create a similar look, try a paint colour that's a couple of shades lighter than your wall colour.

■ Image: Hillarys



START SMALL

If you're still nervous about coloured shutters, try adding them to a small window first before braving a larger one. A cloakroom or hallway is the ideal spot to let your imagination run wild and have a little fun with the décor. Here, the sky-blue shutter has been matched to blend in with the statement wallpaper.

■ Image: Shutterly Fabulous

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PROPERTY TALK

With Nigel Lewis

Pictures: Richard Gill



CROMWELL'S PRE-BATTLE BOLTHOLE

As the nation prepares for the royal wedding next year between Prince Harry and US actress Meghan Markle, this historic stone house reminds of less happy times when our royal family helped split, rather than unite, the nation.

Lumb Hall is where a young Oliver Cromwell stayed in June 1643 before he fought in the Battle of Adwalton Moor in Yorkshire, his second of half a dozen conflicts he fought in during the English Civil War.

Cromwell was an extraordinary man. With little military experience, he rose from Colonel to Lieutenant General in just three years and, after winning several decisive battles and reorganising the

Parliamentary army from the roots up, he became Lord Protector of the nation in 1653.

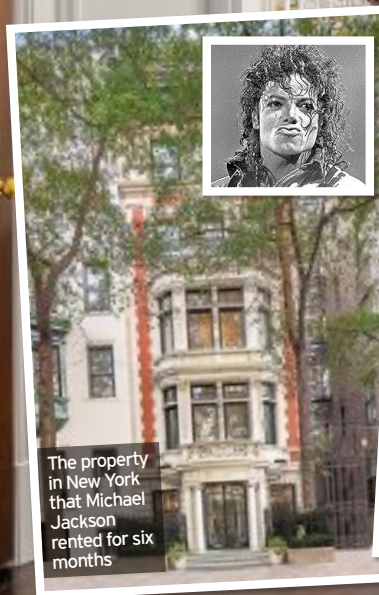
Grade-I listed Lumb Hall would have been a fitting place for a gifted and ambitious young soldier like Cromwell to relax before a battle. The mansion, which belonged to a local cloth baron, had been built just a few years before he visited. And not that much has changed since, except for the addition of modern conveniences.

Surviving features that Cromwell would have enjoyed include its stone fireplaces beamed ceilings, oak panelling, mullioned windows and, in the first-floor hallway, a circular stone 'wheel' window that is a key part of the property's design.

Outside, the property includes a well-maintained formal garden, two-car garage and a summerhouse.

To buy this extraordinary piece of British history near Bradford in Yorkshire, call Carter Jonas on 0113 2031090.

JACKSON'S OFF THE WALL HOUSE



The property in New York that Michael Jackson rented for six months



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valuation.kings-group.net



HERTFORD 01992 586570, CHESHUNT 01992 635735



When Michael Jackson needed somewhere to stay in New York while working on his last album, you'd have thought a suite in one of the city's top hotels might fit the bill. But not the famously profligate King of Pop. Instead, Jackson rented an eight-bedroom Manhattan mansion for six months – for \$75,000 a month.

This enormous home on the Upper East Side – one of New York's most prestigious districts – is now on the market for a jaw dropping \$39 million.

For that, you get more than 12,000 square feet of living space and a wealth of original features including grand oak staircases, stained glass windows and 10 working fireplaces.

This impressive home also boasts a huge, landscaped roof terrace with panoramic views of the city.

Situated between Madison Avenue and Fifth Avenue, just a block away from Central Park, the property was built in 1898 by the celebrated architect Alexander Welch in a style reminiscent of 17th Century Parisian mansions.

The album Jackson was working on while living at 4 East 74th Street sadly turned out to be his last.

Invincible was released in October 2001 and the singer passed away in 2009 following an accidental overdose.

While Jackson was famously reclusive, the current owners are clearly keen on entertaining. There is a large kitchen featuring white cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances, a butler's serving area and a vast formal dining room.

No.4 East 74th Street is for sale via agent the Modlin Group (+1 212 974 0740).

James Bond film fans will recognise the Gothic Revival beauty of this historic mansion from Quantum of Solace. It featured in the 2008 outing for the spy thriller series starring Daniel Craig in his second Bond role, and filming at the house lasted for three days. But it's not the property's only starring role.

Harpsden Court has also featured in the movie *The Woman in Black* starring Daniel Radcliffe, Jude featuring Christopher Eccleston and Kate Winslet, *The Invisible Woman* with Ralph Fiennes and the recent film version of children's book Molly Moon's *Incredible Book of Hypnotism*, starring Emily Watson.

The Grade-II listed, 13-bedroom mansion has

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

also seen a famous visitor of a more regal kind. Its main bedroom is known as Queen Mary's room because she stayed at the property during World War I while visiting injured soldiers who were being cared for there.

Harpsden Court dates to 1204 and the house is recorded in a 1586 map kept at Oxford's Bodleian Library. The property has been extended and overhauled several times and parts of it are

medieval, Elizabethan, Regency and Gothic Revival. It's near the town of Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire and is now on the market for the first time in 40 years, for £4.95million.

It includes a panelled reception hall and dining room, two reception rooms, wine cellar, music room and boating pond. More from Hamptons International on 01491 699924.

BY JEEVES, WHAT A FASHIONABLE PAD

A link between the world of writer PG Wodehouse and the life of fashion designer Alexander McQueen, right, would seem unlikely. But this elegant Georgian property in central London is where both men lived.

In 2010 McQueen was halfway through refurbishing the top floors of the property when he committed suicide at a rented flat nearby, prompting a wave of global grief.

PG Wodehouse, the author of the Jeeves and Wooster series of books, lived at the house between 1927



Picture: Grant Frazer

and 1934 while at the height of his creative powers.

After selling the property Wodehouse moved to France but later he moved to the US where he remained until the end of his life.

After McQueen's death, the refurbishment of the property's top floor three-bedroom maisonette was completed and the flat later sold for £8.5 million.

The other part of his planned project, an apartment below, is now for sale too. It's a one-bedroom property with a single reception room and two bathrooms, a small rear balcony off the bedroom, a new kitchen and wooden flooring throughout. It's on Dunraven Street in Mayfair.

More information from Dexters on 020 7590 9590.

LAND DRIVEN TO A NEW USE

There was a time when the UK was a global player in car manufacturing and British-owned behemoths such as MG Rover made hundreds of thousands of vehicles every year.

MG Rover's biggest plant was at Longbridge on the outskirts of Birmingham where, during its 1970s and 1980s heyday, 25,000 people worked. But in 2005 the plant, despite MG Rover partnering with BMW, closed, and the remaining 6,500 jobs were lost when a Chinese company bought the remains of MG Rover and moved production overseas.

Since then car manufacturing has been resurrected in the West Mid-



lands, but the challenges of what to do with the former Longbridge site remain. One answer is to provide space for much needed housing in the area. Developer Taylor Wimpey recently bought a seven-acre patch for £7.6 million which will soon include 95 new homes.

"The site of our new Cofton View development will always be tied to Longbridge's manufacturing heritage, and we want to reflect that as best we can," says a Taylor Wimpey spokesperson. "Our understanding is that the plant also played a vital role in the Second World War, when hundreds of Hawker Hurricane fighters were assembled there."

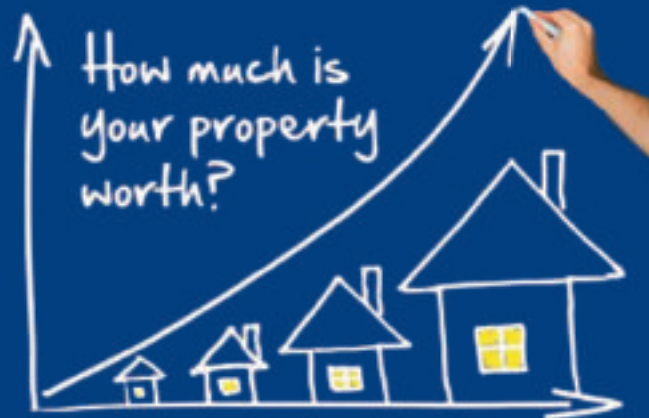
The company says it is to install a plaque at the site to mark the contribution the plant made to the Longbridge area, and to the UK as a whole.

The site is to open for viewings just before Christmas. More details from Taylor Wimpey on 0121 516 0350.

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YOUR GARDEN

With Diarmuid Gavin

Winter berries are an extraordinary gift which delight both us and many types of other

creatures which rely on them.

We are now approaching the shortest day of the year, enduring the occasional Arctic blast, and our gardens often look shrivelled in the gloom.

Summer bedding is but a dream, our perennials have retreated, many trees are nude and lawns are damp and vulnerable to damage.

But hope springs through with a wonderful range of winter berries dotted throughout some trees and shrubs.

Berries ensure the survival of some species through the seeds they contain, which may go on to be germinated and become new, young plants. They also provide food and energy for hungry garden birds; and of course berries can be brought indoors for decoration in the festive season and act as an indoor reminder of the wonders of the natural world outside.

Holly and its vivid red berries are synonymous with Christmas. In Christian symbolism, the prickly leaves represent the crown of thorns, the berries the blood of Jesus. At the moment, holly bushes are laden with their crop which some believe indicates a harsh winter ahead.

However, good fruit crops are the result of good past weather, not prophetic signs of the future.

Pyracantha bushes are also ablaze with intense displays of orange and red fruit.

But look further afield and there are shrubs and trees producing berries ranging from white and yellow through to blue, purple and violet.

The snowberry, *Symphoricarpos*, was once widely planted in Victorian and Edwardian times in shrubberies and as game cover, but is no longer popular, possibly due to its vigorous suckering and spreading habit.

However, the plump white fruit is a



Snowberry

gift to the birds at the moment and looks pretty in the hedgerows.

Sorbus Pink Pagoda drips bunches of pink berries which fade to white in winter. It makes a wonderful specimen for a small back garden as it is petite but graceful in silhouette and has great autumn foliage as well.

Pink Charm is another good variety with shocking pink berries.

For highly unusual coloured berries, *Callicarpa bodinieri Profusion* wins the prize. It will go unnoticed as a shrub for most of the year but come autumn it produces berries of a stunning lilac-purple hue. Best

planted in groups for good cropping, it is aptly otherwise known as Beautyberry.



Sorbus Pink Pagoda

Also producing berries in the pink-to-purple colour range is *Gaultheria mucronata*. Related to the heather family, it needs lime-free soil to flourish and will look wonderful planted among relations such as winter-flowering heathers.

Seaside dwellers will be familiar with the sea buckthorn, the hard-to-



Sea buckthorn

pronounce *Hippophae rhamnoides*.

This is a great windbreak plant for coastal locations – it is thorny with narrow silvery leaves and glowing orange berries – the silver and orange

Berry beautiful in winter

Holly means Christmas – but lots of other shrubs and trees also offer seasonal colour

Get pruning apple and pear trees

■ Jobs this time of the year are very weather dependent. If you've had flooding, you're probably best off indoors as pathways are slippery and soil shouldn't be worked on when sodden.

■ However, if you're itching for gardening work, then it's time for apple and pear pruning. Cherries and plums shouldn't be touched during winter as this will leave them vulnerable to silver

JOBS FOR THE WEEK

leaf fungus. Apply grease bands to the trunks to stop overwintering moths climbing up and laying their eggs.

■ Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbages and sprouts, and enjoy home-grown produce on Christmas Day.

■ Continue to rake fallen leaves off the lawn and out

of the pond – and on to the compost heap.

■ With temperatures plummeting, make sure your tender plants are either wrapped up or indoors.

■ Go foraging in your garden for attractive greenery, berries and branches that can be kept fresh in a bucket of water or sprayed silver, gold or white for Christmas decorations, wreaths and gifts.



Keep raking up fallen leaves



Harvest leeks now in time for Christmas



Viburnum davidii

make a striking combination.

Viburnum davidii is so widely planted that we sometimes forget to appreciate its beauty. It has deeply veined evergreen leaves and where several shrubs are gathered, they will produce vivid blue berries in winter.

If you want to propagate from berries, you need to pick them when they are completely ripe, so when



Beautyberry

you squeeze them they are soft.

Collect and mash them through a sieve – a household one is fine – so that the pulp goes through and you are left with the seed inside.

Sow in gritty compost, covering seeds lightly and leave outside to germinate. Some may need more than one cold season to get going, so be patient!

ASK DIARMUID

Q Please can you tell me what these awful warts are on the leaves of my conference pear trees? I have two trees – they are about 50 years old and always have a wonderful crop.

The problem only started last year. It doesn't seem to affect the fruit but looks awful. My apple tree isn't affected. I would like to know what causes it.

I can't spray as I'm 87.

Colleen Kirkpatrick

A YOUR trees have pear rust, which is a fungus causing



those bright orange spots.

Chemical controls to deal with this have been phased out for the gardener, so you will have to rely on pruning infected parts of the plant.

The fungus overwinters on nearby junipers, so you should prune any orange-looking

swellings from the juniper or you might consider removing the juniper altogether.

However, the juniper may be away from your garden as the spores are wind-borne.

When the pear trees start putting on leaf in spring, check for the disease and remove and destroy infected leaves as soon as possible to reduce the spread.

However, you don't want to denude the trees entirely as this causes its own problems, so you may have to accept some level of foliage disfigurement.

PLANT OF THE WEEK

CAMELLIA 'YULETIDE'

Here's a seasonal delight named Yuletide. It's so Christmassy with its dark green glossy leaves which form the perfect backdrop to its brilliant red flowers. For a maximum floral extravaganza every year, plant camellias in a partially shaded spot with protection from the wind. They prefer acid to neutral

soil so an annual addition of leaf or bark mulch will be welcome and if planting in containers, choose ericaceous compost.

The buds of camellia can be delicate – make sure they don't dry out in the summer when they are forming. A liquid feed during spring and summer will help boost bud formation.



Also, keep out of east-facing positions where a combination of frosts and early morning sun can lead to damage.

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- Lounge Diner 14'3" x 13'1"

- Fitted Kitchen 6'11" x 9'8"
- Bedroom One 11'2" x 13'0"
- Bedroom Two 6'4" x 12'10"
- Modern Bathroom



POTTERS FIELD

Offers Over £279,995

- Two Double Bedroom End of Terrace Home
- Conservatory
- Separate Utility Area
- Outskirts of Harlow
- No Onward Chain
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Viewings are Strongly Recommended



THE READINGS

£280,000

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Mid Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Close to Amenities
- Good Size Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain



MOORFIELD

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- No Onward Chain
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- Double Glazing
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RUNDELLS

£240,000

- Two Bedroom Home
- End of Terrace
- Double Bedrooms
- Large Lounge Diner
- Good Size Kitchen
- Neatly Presented Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain



MOORFIELD

£175,000

- Neatly Presented Two Bedrooms
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- Potter Street Location



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- Viewings strongly recommended



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- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
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- No Onward Chain



LITTLE CATTINS

£300,000

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- Lounge Diner
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- End of Terrace
- Garage to Rear
- Allocated Parking Space
- Outskirts of Harlow



PEAR TREE MEAD

OIEO £315,000

- Immaculately Presented
- Prime Location
- Extended
- Three Bedrooms
- Close to Schools
- Close to Bush Fair
- Kitchen Diner
- Solar Panels
- Viewing Recommended



THE FORTUNES

£323,000

- Four Bedroom Family Home
- Corner Plot
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room & Downstairs Cloakroom
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Viewing Recommended



EAST PARK

OIEO £330,000

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Good Location
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Old Town Location
- Close to Schools



BENTLEY DRIVE

£349,995

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace Home
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- Close to All Amenities



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- Close to All Amenities



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- Driveway
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Immaculate Throughout



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- Must Be Viewed
- Stunning property
- En-suite to Master Bedroom
- Semi Rural Location
- Kitchen/dining room
- Wonderful Views
- Garage & Driveway
- *Admin Fees Apply
- EPC Rating D
- Available Now



PEACOCKS £1,100 PCM

- Three Bed House
- Modern Bathroom
- Modern Kitchen
- Must Be Viewed
- EPC Rating D
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Unfurnished
- Oven Only
- Available Now



TUNNMEADE £1,050 PCM

- Three Bedroom House
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating D
- No Pets
- No DSS
- Kitchen/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Oven Only
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now



RIVERSIDE COURT \$995 PCM

- Private Development
- Gated & Intercom Entry
- Kitchen Appliances Only
- Top Floor
- Balcony
- EPC Rating C
- *Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now



CHURCHFIELD £1,050 PCM

- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen Appliances Only
- EPC Rating E (New Boiler Since)
- Close To Shops/Doctors/Schools
- Family Home
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now



BENTLEY DRIVE £975 PCM

- Two Bedroom House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Part Furnished
- EPC Rating C
- *Admin Fees Apply



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• Chain Free • EPC Rating: D



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£274,995
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• Large Kitchen • Popular Location
• Chain Free • EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE
OIRO £295,000
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• Three Bedrooms • End Of Terrace
• Excellent Project • Chain Free
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• Three Bedroom • Garage & Off Street Parking
• End Terrace • Conservatory
• Downstairs Cloakroom • EPC Rating: E



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£1,250,000
HOGGS FARM, MATCHING TYE
• Four Bedrooms • Grade II Listed
• Two Receptions • Chain Free
• Detached • EPC Rating: TBC



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It's nearly Christmas, so here are our upcoming opening times!

Wednesday 20th December	- 9am - 5pm	Wednesday 27th December	- 10am - 2pm
Thursday 21st December	- 9am - 6pm	Thursday 28th December	- 10am - 2pm
Friday 22nd December	- 9am - 2pm	Friday 29th December	- 10am - 2pm
Saturday 23rd December	- Closed -	Saturday 30th December	- 10am - 2pm
Sunday 24th December	- Closed -	Sunday 31st January	- Closed -
Monday 25th December	- Closed -	Monday 1st January	- Closed -
Tuesday 26th December	- Closed -	Tuesday 2nd January	- 9am - 6pm

Wishing you the very best for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The H&B Property Team

info@hbproperty.co.uk
Tel: 01279 418888

Gothic House, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0DN



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£945,000
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• Three Receptions • Detached
• Private Location • EPC Rating: C



CHAIN FREE
£350,000
LATON GREEN, HARLOW
• Four Bedrooms • Updating Required
• Semi Detached • Chain Free
• Ground Floor Bathroom • EPC Rating: TBC



MUST VIEW
£399,995
CANOPY LANE, NEWHALL
• Four Bedrooms • Two Bathroom
• Detached • Downstairs WC
• Car Port & Driveway • EPC Rating: C



BARN
£650,000
THE BARNS, OLD HARLOW
• Three Bedrooms • Walk To Station
• Two Bathrooms • Courtyard Setting
• Semi Detached • EPC Rating: E



PARKING
£495,000
PARKSIDE, MATCHING TYE
• Semi Detached • Upgraded Throughout
• Three Bedrooms • Double Car Port
• Three Receptions • EPC Rating: D



NO WORK
£450,000
Braggowens Ley, Newhall
• Four Bedrooms • Semi Detached
• Off Street Parking • Two Bathrooms
• Immaculate Throughout • EPC Rating: C



NEW ON
£400,000
FLINT LANE, NEWHALL
• Three Bedrooms • Sun Terrace
• Two Bathrooms • Parking
• Under Floor Heating • EPC Rating: TBC

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info@hbproperty.co.uk

H&B Lettings Ltd

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H&B

WANTED

TENANTS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFER !!!
HALF PRICE ADMIN FEES ON THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES



£825 PCM
THE PADDOCK, BISHOPS STORTFORD

- One Bedroom
- Ground Floor
- Garden
- Available Mid January 2018
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : C



£950 PCM
RIVERSIDE COURT, OLD HARLOW

- Two Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Idyllic Riverside Settings
- Available Now
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : D



£1,050 PCM
BURLEY HILL, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Garden
- Available: Now
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : C



£1,050 PCM
TWYFORD ROAD, BISHOPS STORTFORD

- Three Bedrooms
- Character Property
- Close to Rail Link
- Available Now
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : E



£1,095 PCM
FOLD CROFT, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Close To Shops
- No Smokers / Pets
- Available Now
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : F



£1100 PCM
NEW POND STREET, NEWHALL

- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Decor
- Balcony
- Available Mid January
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : B



£1,600 PCM
CLAY LANE, NEWHALL

- Three / Four Bedrooms
- Modern Decor Throughout
- Award Winning Design
- Available Mid January 2018
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : B



£1,650 PCM
MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Four Bedrooms
- Unfurnished
- Southerly Gardens
- Available Early January 2018
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : C



£2,500 PCM
NEWMANS WAY, MATCHING TYE

- Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Countryside Views
- Available Now
- Other Fees Apply
- EPC Rating : D

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The path to a successful move this Autumn...



UNIT 4, CHURCH LANGLEY WAY, CHURCH LANGLEY

01279-410084



MUST BE SEEN!

The Gardiners

£269,995

- A Two Bedroom Terrace House
- Situated At The End Of A Residential Cul-De-Sac
- Allocated Parking
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- E.P.C. Rating: C



VIEWING ADVISED!

Chamberlain Close

£270,000

- A Two DOUBLE Bedroom Terrace House
- Allocated Parking For Two Cars
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge / Diner
- Secluded Private Rear Garden
- E.P.C. Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

Doulton Close

£320,000

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- Situated In Cul-De-Sac Location
- En-suite To Master Bedroom
- Garage
- Driveway For One Vehicle
- EPC Rating: C



CHAIN FREE

Doulton Close

O.I.R.O - £335,000

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- En-suite To Master Bedroom
- Garage
- Driveway For One Vehicle
- Downstairs WC
- EPC Rating: D



MUST BE SEEN!

Wedgewood Drive

£380,000

- A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Downstairs W/C
- Southerly Facing Rear Garden With Side Access
- Garage & Parking For Two Vehicles
- Solid Oak Flooring
- E.P.C. Rating: D



VIEWING ADVISED!

Malkin Drive

£435,000

- A Four Bedroom Linked Detached House
- Kitchen/ Diner With Doors To The Rear
- Garage With Power & Lighting
- Driveway For Multiple Cars
- Downstairs W/C
- E.P.C. Rating: C



VIA AUCTION

Davenport

£440,000

- A Five Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Garage & Off Street Parking For Multiple Cars
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Conservatory To The Rear
- E.P.C. Rating: D



MUST BE SEEN!

Old London Road

£495,000

- A Substantial Four Bedroom Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-suite To The Master Bedroom
- Driveway For Multiple Vehicles
- Separate Lounge & Dining Room
- E.P.C. Rating: Awaiting



Bunting Street, Newhall

£360,000

- A Two Bedroom Linked- Detached House
- Open Plan Living/ Diner and Kitchen
- Garage & Private Driveway For One Car
- Downstairs WC
- Secluded Garden
- EPC Rating: B



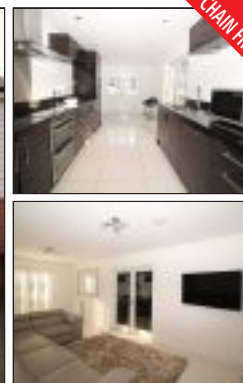
NEWHALL LOCATION



Seymour Chase, Epping

O.I.E.O - £575,000

- Situated in the Kingswood Park Estate, EPPING
- Three double Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Two En-Suites & A Family Bathroom
- Benefits From UnderFloor Heating
- Car Port
- Chain Free
- EPC Rating: C



CHAIN FREE

The path to a successful move this Autumn...



www.kings-group.net

19 EASTGATE, HARLOW
01279-433033



VIEWING ADVISED!

Little Grove Field
.....
O.I.E.O -
£260,000

- Two Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge
- Close Proximity To All Local Amenities
- EPC Rating: D



CHAIN FREE

Rye Croft
.....
O.I.E.O -
£264,000

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Chain Free
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- An Ideal First Time Buy Or Investment Opportunity
- Approx. 50ft Rear Garden
- EPC Rating: D



MUST BE SEEN!

Tanys Dell
.....
O.I.R.O -
£ 275,000

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Perfect Home Or Investment
- Approx. 50ft Rear Gardens
- Awaiting EPC Rating



CHAIN FREE

Long Banks
.....
O.I.R.O -
£280,000

- Three Bedroom House
- End of Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Chain Free
- Perfect Home Or Investment
- Awaiting EPC



MUST BE SEEN!

Milwards
.....
£290,000

- Four Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Kitchen/ Diner
- Two Double Sized Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment Or Family Home
- Approx 40ft Garden
- EPC Rating D



VIEWING ADVISED!

Pittmans Field
.....
O.I.R.O -
£290,000

- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House
- Cul De Sac Location
- Easy Reach Of Schools & Local Amenities
- Fitted Kitchen
- Landscaped Garden To Rear Aspect
- EPC Rating: Awaiting



CHAIN FREE

Pegrams Court
.....
O.I.R.O -
£290,000

- Three Bedroom House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Chain Free
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Perfect Home Or Investment
- EPC Rating C



MUST BE SEEN!

Old Orchard
.....
£565,000

- Five Bedroom Detached House
- Front Drive For Several Cars
- Through Lounge/ Dining Area
- Ground Floor Cloakroom
- Decorated To A High Standard In Our Opinion
- EPC Awaiting



VIEWING ADVISED!



Peterswood

.....
O.I.R.O -
£278,995

- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House
- Garage To The Front
- Driveway For One Vehicle
- Fitted Kitchen To Front Aspect
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- EPC Rating D



MUST BE SEEN!



Ladyshot

.....
O.I.E.O -
£290,000

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Approximately 40ft Rear Garden With Rear Access
- Lift From Dining Area To Bedroom Three
- EPC Rating : Awaiting



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WHY INSTRUCT
ANYONE ELSE?

AFFORDABLE LETTING FEES LANDLORDS WANTED TENANTS WAITING



19 Eastgate, Harlow
01279-450400

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House, CM20

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£625

Crouch Court

- One Bedroom Flat
- Minutes from Harlow Train Station
- EPC Rating - F
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£775

Bentley Drive, Church Langley

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Newly Decorated Throughout
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£850

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House, CM20

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£675

MORE AVAILABLE

Terminus House

- Immaculate Studio Flats
- In the heart on Harlow Town
- Fully furnished with brand new appliances
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£650

**WINNERS OF A RECORD
13 ESTAS AT THE 2016
ESTATE & LETTING
AGENT AWARDS...**

**IN THE BIGGEST CONSUMER SURVEY OF ITS KIND IN THE PROPERTY
INDUSTRY, THE PRESTIGIOUS ESTATE AND LETTINGS AGENTS
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WE CAME OUT ON TOP...AGAIN! INCLUDING BEST OFFICE IN THE UK!!**

COMPETITIVE AGENCY FEES

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FREE INVENTORY*

**DEDICATED PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

*Terms and conditions apply.

Elm Court, Commons Road

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Close To Local Amenities
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£950

Dunstalls

- Three Bedroom House
- 2 Great sized double bedrooms
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,150

Feasants Croft

- Three Bedroom House
- Fully Furnished
- EPC Rating - D
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,200

Doulton Close, Church Langley

- Three Bedroom House
- Master to Ensuite
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,300

Joyners Field

- Three Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating - C
- Additional Fees - see in branch

£1,200

Fees - Please see in branch for details.

HOME STYLE

TOP GIFTS FOR GARDENERS...

From sweet stocking-fillers to wow-factor pressies, these ideas are bound to delight

If you have a friend or relative who loves nothing more than pottering around in the garden or helping things grow, there's a plethora of gifts out there this Christmas with their name on. From quirky nesters to dinky tins, tools and shed tidies, here are our top picks...



1 HOZELOCK AQUADECO WATERING GLOBES, currently reduced to £8.37 from £12.49 for a pack of three (andysemporium.co.uk)

If the gardener in your life finds watering pots a chore, help make it easy for them with some stylish handmade Hozelock AquaDeco Watering Globes. Fill these water, then turn upside down in the pot, and just the right amount will be released as required.



2 BOSCH EASYCUT 12 CORDLESS NANOBLADE SAW, £130 (bosch-do-it.com)

This all-purpose, compact cordless multi-saw was a finalist in this year's RHS Chelsea Garden Product of the Year. It has a lithium-ion battery but is lightweight, operates with minimal vibration, and can cut through branches and wood. Ideal for all those pruning tasks.

3 GARDEN MARKET VEGETABLE KIT, £15, Wyevale Garden Centres (in store only; wyevalegardencentres.co.uk)

The perfect gift for a green-fingered friend, this 'grow your own' vegetable kit comes complete with all the essentials for starting a veggie plot from scratch, including gloves, tools, seeds, compost and twine.



4 HOZELOCK SEASONS 15M SPIRAL HOSE SET, £29.99 (very.co.uk)

This colourful little hosepipe is ideal for small-scale urban gardeners, or those who just have a patio to tend to, as it stretches from 1m to 15m in length and retracts again for easy storage. The nozzle also has five spray patterns for gardening and cleaning tasks. Available in lime green, pink or purple.

5 STAYHOLD SUPER PACK CAR BOOT ORGANISER, £24.99 (robertdya.co.uk)

Ever loaded your car boot with plants only to find, once you've got home, that they've toppled and scattered soil



everywhere? This innovative system from Velcro, which enables you to fix pots into place, will make those pesky spillages a thing of the past.



6 SUTTONS SEED TINS, £4.95 each (suttons.co.uk)

The famous seed company has put 12 of its most popular varieties for successional sowing into dinky tins featuring classic styling reminiscent of more than 200 years of Suttons heritage. No more ripping open packets and rolling down the tops to store, these mini tins contain twice as many seeds as standard packs, and would make lovely stocking-fillers.

7 HEYLAND & WHITTLE CANDLE IN A CAN, £15 (heylandandwhittle.co.uk)

Everybody loves a candle - and this new 'Scentational' range from Heyland & Whittle features unusual fragrances guaranteed to appeal to the gardening brigade, including

Garden Pea, Black Olives, Pineapple and Tomato & Herb.



8 RUTLAND NEOPRENE LINED WELLINGTON BOOTS, £79.99 (townandco.com)

A cut above the rest, the 4mm-thick neoprene lining covers the whole of the inside of the boot, including the insole area, making them



supremely comfortable, while a concertina-style gusset on the inside and contoured design provides an adjustable fit. There's also a steel shank for added strength in the sole.

9 BURGON & BALL HANG IT PEGBOARD, £22.99, above (burgonandball.com)

If they like to be organised, and hate losing time searching for those little gardening essentials such as twine, scissors and small hand tools, why not treat them to this nifty metal peg board? Comes complete with fixings and eight hooks for hanging.



10 FELCO MODEL 2 ORIGINAL SECATEURS, currently reduced to £44 from £54 (worldoffelco.co.uk)

Every gardener loves receiving a shiny, sharp new pair of secateurs, and you can't go wrong with these. Among the most popular available, they're widely used by professional and amateurs alike, with solid forged metal alloy handles and replaceable precision-made Swiss blades. Truly reliable.



11 BURGON & BALL APPLE BIRD FEEDER, £6.99 EACH (burgonandball.com)

Available in a house or heart-shaped design, these beautiful stocking-fillers should delight bird-lovers. Designed by Sophie Conran and made from powder-coated galvanised steel and with a leather hanging cord, you simply place an apple on the spike and hang it from a tree branch.

12 ORGANIC GARDENER'S RESCUE KIT, £44.75 (notonthehighstreet.com)

A gorgeous package for the tired gardener who wants some soothing therapy at the end of the day. It includes a herbal hand cleanser made with lightly-foaming soapwort and lavender, along with handcream and a nailbrush, plus a herbal bath soak packed with Epsom salts and balancing essential oils. The box can be reused for storing seeds, twine and other garden ephemera.



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HarlowStar

CENTURION

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HERONS WOOD, HARLOW

£490,000

- FOUR BED DETACHED
- LARGE EXTENSIONS
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- CLOAK ROOM
- LARGE PLOT
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



GREAT PLUMTREE, HARLOW

£271,950

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES
- RECENTLY RE-DECORATED
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



LONG LEY, HARLOW

£310,000

- FOUR BED END TERRACE
- GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN & DINER
- DRIVEWAY
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- BEDROOM ON GROUND FLOOR
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



SPRING HILLS, HARLOW

£215,000

- TWO BED MAISONETTE
- LARGE GARDEN
- CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS HEATING
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



CHURCH LEYS, HARLOW

£275,000

- TWO BED TERRACE
- GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- SOUTH FACING GARDEN
- UPVC D/GLAZED WINDOWS
- GAS HEATING
- WHITE BATHROOM SUITE
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE



HORNBEAMS, HARLOW

£135,000

- STUDIO APARTMENT
- WEST FACING BALCONY
- IDEAL INVESTMENT
- CURRENTLY LET FOR £580
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL PHOTOS ONLINE
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED



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Imagery includes optional upgrades at additional cost

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Set against an impressive backdrop of countryside in a truly enviable location, this delightful collection of traditionally styled cottages and houses is the perfect place to call home.

Finished to the highest specification, Elsenham Vale provides a wide choice of Lifetime Homes conveniently located within easy reach of the village centre, station and a host of good local schools, whilst still being just a short drive from the A120, M11 and Stansted Airport.

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Chelsea Gardens, Harlow £559,995

- Five Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Southerly Garden
- Tandem Garage & Driveway
- Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- WC & Utility Room
- EPC Rating: TBC



Spruce Hill, Harlow £279,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Well Presented
- Lounge/Diner
- Ground Floor WC
- Middle Terrace
- Popular Location
- Fitted Wardrobes
- EPC Rating: TBC



Alexandra Road, Harlow £219,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- First Floor
- Apartment
- Popular Location
- Large Loft
- EPC Rating: TBC



GREENFINCH WAY, NEWHALL £459,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Balcony To Master
- NHBC Warranty
- EPC Rating: B



ALBERT GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY £449,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Well Presented
- Chain Free
- Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating: TBC



MOSS LANE, NEWHALL £399,995

- Three Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Sun Terrace
- Driveway
- Link Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: B



CORNER MEADOW, HARLOW £399,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Private Development
- Chain Free
- Detached
- Well Presented
- Three/Four Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating: D



CHALLINOR, CHURCH LANGLEY £384,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Private Rear Garden
- Garage & Drive
- Detached House
- Immaculate Home
- En-Suite & W.C
- EPC Rating: D



CHALLINOR, CHURCH LANGLEY £374,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Cloakroom/WC
- Garage & Driveway
- Link Detached
- En-Suite Shower
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D



PYENEST ROAD, HARLOW £369,995

- Three bedrooms
- Driveway
- Un-Overlooked Garden
- Popular Location
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: TBC



ALBERT GARDENS, CHURCH LANGLEY £339,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cu-De-Sac Location
- Own Parking
- Semi Detached
- Ground Floor W.C
- Modern Bathroom
- EPC Rating: D



LATTON GREEN, HARLOW £339,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Two Reception Rooms
- Chain Free
- Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Potential To Extend (STPP)
- EPC Rating: TBC



PRIORY COURT, HARLOW £339,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Recently Redecorated
- Driveway
- Overlooking Latton Common
- Town House
- En-suite To Master
- Private Close
- EPC Rating: TBC



EAST PARK, OLD HARLOW £330,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Immaculate Throughout
- Large Conservatory
- Desirable Location
- Middle Terrace
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Overlooking Green
- EPC Rating: D



GLAN AVON MEWS, HARLOW £304,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Modern Kitchen/Diner
- Well Presented
- End Terrace Home
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: TBC

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Malkin Drive, Church Langley £284,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom W.C
- CHAIN FREE
- Terraced House
- En-Suite Shower
- Parking To Rear
- EPC Rating: C



Bowhill Way, Harlow £209,995

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Ground Floor
- Apartment
- Close To Amenities
- EPC Rating: B



The Chase, Harlow £192,500

- One Bedroom
- Decked Courtyard
- Open Plan
- Chain Free
- Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Allocated Parking
- EPC Rating: TBC



LITTLE CATTINS, HARLOW

- Four Bedrooms
- Lounge/diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Modern Kitchen
- End Of Terrace
- Garage To Rear
- Allocated Parking
- EPC Rating: D

£300,000



WILLOWFIELD, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Lounge/Diner
- Chain Free
- End Terrace Bungalow
- Southerly Garden
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: C

£299,995



MALKIN DRIVE, CHURCH LANGLEY

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Cloakroom/W.C
- Garage To Rear
- Terraced Home
- Craddock Build
- Southerly Gardens
- EPC Rating: C

£294,995



PEACOCKS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Modern Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- End Of Terrace
- Popular Location
- Close To Amenities
- EPC Rating: D

£284,995



THE DOWNS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Utility Room
- Chain Free
- Terraced Home
- Close To Town Centre
- Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: TBC

£274,995



UPPER MEALLINES, HARLOW

- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Ground Floor WC
- Chain Free
- End Of Terrace
- Extended Property
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£274,995



LONG LEY, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Popular Location
- CHAIN FREE
- Terraced Home
- Modern Kitchen
- Private Garden
- EPC Rating: E

£264,995



FENNELLS, HARLOW

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom/WC
- Chain Free
- Terraced House
- Popular Location
- Outskirts Of Town
- EPC Rating: TBC

£264,995



ABBOTSWELD, HARLOW

- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- Chain Free
- End Terrace
- Westerly Garden
- Popular Location
- EPC Rating: D

£249,995



LITTLE CATTINS, HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Juliette Balcony
- Apartment
- Top Floor (2nd)
- CHAIN FREE
- EPC Rating: C

£164,995



REGENCY COURT, HARLOW

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Communal Garden
- Chain Free
- Ground Floor
- Apartment
- Residents Parking
- EPC Rating: D

£149,995



CHURCH END, HARLOW

- Studio
- First Floor
- Fitted Kitchen
- Chain Free
- Apartment
- Popular Location
- Large Store Room
- EPC Rating: D

£119,995

t: 01279 216216

e: info@rjestateagents.co.uk



Reyland Johnson are committed to supporting local charities and this Christmas we will be working with Harlow Foodbank.



Since 2009 they have registered and fed an astonishing 22,428 people! Designed to help individuals and families in crisis by providing free emergency food, Harlow foodbank rely on 4.5 tonne of donated food every month as well as running costs for storage & delivery.

OUR GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS IS A SPECTACULAR RAFFLE!!

JUST £2 A TICKET!

1st Prize -
Playstation 4 Slim
& FIFA 18



2nd Prize -
42 inch LED TV, freeview HD



3rd Prize -
Virginia Hayward,
Luxury Christmas Hamper



Tickets can be purchased from our office at Bush fair where we are also taking food donations, please pay us a visit.

The winning tickets will be drawn on 15th December,
Live on our Facebook page.

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TO LET

Sharpecroft, Harlow

£1,250 P.C.M

- Three Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Available NOW
- Town Centre Location
- Middle Terrace House
- Unfurnished
- Immaculate Throughout
- EPC Rating: TBC



TO LET

Kingsland, Harlow

£1,200 P.C.M

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Unfurnished
- South Facing Garden
- Middle Terrace
- Available End December
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC Rating: C



LET AGREED

MORE NEEDED

Tilbury Mead, Harlow

£1,150 P.C.M

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Available Late Jan
- Modern Kitchen
- Terraced House
- Close To Schools
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: E



TO LET

Maypole Street, Newhall

£1,050 P.C.M

- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan
- Balcony
- Available November
- First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: C



LET AGREED

MORE NEEDED

East Park, Old Harlow

£995 P.C.M

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Available NOW
- Fantastic Location
- Middle Terrace House
- Unfurnished
- Lounge/Diner
- EPC Rating: TBC



TO LET

Aylets Field, Harlow

£875 P.C.M

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Top Floor
- Available Beg Dec 17
- Apartment
- Recently Decorated
- Unfurnished
- EPC Rating: D



TO LET

Netteswell Tower, Harlow

£725 P.C.M

- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Close To Town
- Available NOW
- Second Floor Flat
- Unfurnished
- Recently Redecorated
- EPC Rating: D



TO LET

NEW

Carl House, Harlow

£725 P.C.M

- One Bedroom
- First Floor Flat
- White Goods Available
- Available Now
- Unfurnished
- Communal Gardens
- Close To Local Shop
- EPC Rating: C



TO LET

Bushey Croft, Harlow

£650 P.C.M

- First Floor
- Studio Apartment
- Available Beg December 17
- Popular Location
- Close To Amenities
- Unfurnished
- Sorry NO DSS
- EPC Rating: C

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£499,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Cambridge Road). 4 bedroom semi-detached home constructed to a high specification. Driveway and parking for 2-3 cars. High quality kitchen/dining room, impressive sitting room, separate utility room, playroom/study, downstairs cloakroom, 4 bedrooms, en-suite to master bedroom plus high quality main bathroom. Underfloor heating. Short walk to village centre and 15 mins walk to train station. Ideally positioned for schools.



£175,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Priors Court). 1 bedroom first floor apartment in a Grade II listed Maltings building with an extended lease and close to train station. Living room, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Excellent investment opportunity. No onward chain. Sole agents.



£829,950 HATFIELD BROAD OAK. 5 double bedroom detached house with a 1 bedroom annexe, sunny south facing garden, block paved drive, garage, modern kitchen, good size sitting room, separate dining room, utility. Offered with vacant possession and walking distance of village centre. Sole agents.



£315,000 SHEERING (The Street). Beautifully presented period cottage in a village location. Living/dining room with a large open brick fireplace. Kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, large bathroom, enclosed rear garden, double glazed throughout and gas fired central heating. Vacant possession and no onward chain. Sole agents.



£359,950 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Burnside). Extended 3 bedroom home which is beautifully presented with a huge impressive kitchen/family room, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, modern bathroom, landscaped rear garden and en-bloc garage. 10 mins walk to village centre and ideally positioned for schools. Sole agents.



£475,000 SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Church Crescent). Totally renovated and improved 3 bedroom detached property with just a 5 mins walk to train station. Close to town centre. Contemporary finish with a large open plan living room, kitchen, south facing garden, excellent parking. Sole agents.



£965,000 MAGDALEN LAVER. Detached barn conversion enjoying many contemporary features plus a 1 bedroom annexe and double garage. Courtyard setting, good size garden, views over farmland, hot tub, magnificent vaulted entrance, 3-4 bedrooms all with high quality en-suites. Lots of charm and character. Conveniently situated. Sole agents.



£538,950 BISHOPS STORTFORD (Chartwell Place). READY TO MOVE IN TO 3 double bedroom, 2 bathroom luxury home in a gated development with a kitchen/dining room, utility, large sitting room, enclosed rear garden, driveway and carport. Walking distance from station and town centre. Vacant possession and no onward chain.



£1,275,000 GREAT DUNMOW. Spacious 5,000 sq ft barn conversion in 2.8 acres. Gated entrance, drive, tennis court, pavilion, magnificent open plan living area, bespoke kitchen, separate sitting room and study, 3 en-suite bedrooms, luxury bathroom, independent 1 bedroom annexe with kitchen and bathroom, fantastic parking. Early viewing essential. Owners ready to proceed. Sole agents.

WRIGHT & CO CHRISTMAS OFFICE OPENING HOURS 2017

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Saturday 23rd – 9am to 1pm

Christmas Eve- Closed

Christmas Day – Closed

Boxing Day – Closed

Wednesday 27th – 10am to 1pm

Thursday 28th – 10am to 1pm

Friday 29th – 10am to 1pm

Saturday 30th – 10am to 1pm

New Years Eve – Closed

New Years Day – Closed

2nd January Business as usual



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£650pcm (Lawrence Moorings). Ground floor studio apartment situated just a short walk from the station and all of Sawbridgeworth's local amenities. Good size living area enjoying built in storage unit with pull down bed and views over the marina, bathroom and kitchen. Communal gardens. Allocated parking. Available Early January.



£695pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Station Road). One bedroom first floor apartment situated in a central location, just a short walk from all local amenities including mainline railway station. Bright living room, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom and bedroom with bed frame and fitted wardrobe. Available mid January.



£795pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Meadows). Well presented, one bedroom, ground floor apartment conveniently located just a short walk from Sawbridgeworth's station. This spacious property enjoys a double bedroom with fitted wardrobe, good size lounge, kitchen and bathroom. UPVC Double glazed windows. Off road Parking.



£950pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Knight Street). Spacious 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette, in the centre of Sawbridgeworth. This property enjoys a large entrance lobby, open plan sitting room with oak flooring and outside decked area, contemporary style kitchen, two good size bedrooms, and shower room. Short walk to station and available January.



£750pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Meadows). 1 bedroom ground floor apartment, immaculately presented, situated within walking distance of station and amenities. Bright lounge with French doors overlooking communal gardens, open plan kitchen with appliances, bedroom with fitted wardrobes, and bathroom. Off road parking. Available mid December



£775pcm CHURCH LANGLEY (Aynsley Gardens). One bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular location within walking distance of local amenities. Recently redecorated and enjoys a bright living room, kitchen with appliances, double bedroom and bathroom. Off road parking and communal gardens. Available mid January.



£1095pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (Cannons Close). 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet location just a short distance from all local amenities. Fitted bathroom and kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms and a bright lounge overlooking the rear garden. Garden and driveway parking for one car as well as casual parking on the street. Available Early January



£1395pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Crest). A three bedroom extremely well presented family home only a short walk from the mainline station and town centre. The property comprises three bedrooms to first floor plus shower room, with a sitting room opening through to kitchen/diner to ground floor, garden to rear and casual parking to front. Unfurnished and available immediately.



£1395pcm LITTLE HALLINGBURY (Sawbridgeworth Road). 3 bedroom, detached cottage set in 1/4 of an acre. Currently undergoing renovation, comprising entrance hall, good size lounge, newly fitted kitchen & utility room, 3 bedrooms providing fine views and a brand new bathroom. Detached garage, plenty of driveway parking and open garden. Available December.

WRIGHT & CO CHRISTMAS OFFICE OPENING HOURS 2017

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Friday 22nd – 9am to 1pm
Saturday 23rd – 9am to 1pm
Christmas Eve- Closed
Christmas Day – Closed
Boxing Day – Closed
Wednesday 27th – 10am to 1pm
Thursday 28th – 10am to 1pm
Friday 29th – 10am to 1pm
Saturday 30th – 10am to 1pm
New Years Eve – Closed
New Years Day – Closed
2nd January Business as usual



£925pcm HATFIELD BROAD OAK (Cage End). 2 bedroom mid-terrace unfurnished cottage in a popular location, only a short walk from facilities and a short drive to station. Open plan living/dining area, kitchen with breakfast bar, two bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. There is a garden to rear plus parking. Available immediately.



£1095pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Bickerton Court). Recently constructed 2 bed 2 bath luxury apartment with high quality fittings. Short walk from station. Comprised 2 bedrooms with en suite to master and further bathroom, fitted kitchen and living room with dining area and balcony. Allocated Parking. Unfurnished. Available Now



£1395pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (East Road). Immaculately presented, 3 bedroom home close to all local amenities including mainline station. Currently undergoing full renovation enjoying a bright living room, stunning open plan kitchen and dining area, brand new bathroom and three bedrooms. Good size rear garden and permit parking on the road. Available now.



£2995pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (The Drive). We are delighted to be able to offer this six bedroom family home situated in a prestigious location and offering excellent accommodation. The property is only a short walk from the town centre and mainline station and comprises six bedrooms, garden to rear and off road parking to front. Available mid December



£1495pcm SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Bickerton Court). 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1200 sqft duplex apartment in a recently constructed development only a short walk to the station. Comprising huge lounge/dining room with balcony, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Parking to front, gas fired central heating and available January.



£1995pcm HIGH EASTER (The Street). Beautiful 4 bedroom period cottage, plus 1 bedroom detached annexe, in a popular village only a short drive from amenities. Entrance hall, sitting room, dining room/study, fitted kitchen, orangery, four bedrooms with en-suite shower to master, family bathroom. Set in 1.2 acres. Off road parking and single garage. Available January.



£2500pcm BISHOPS STORTFORD (Cannons Mill Lane). An exceptional house in an unique position, which enjoys beautiful secluded gardens with the River Stort navigation running alongside, within walking distance of Bishops Stortford town center. This 5 bedroom detached property sits in a 1/3 acre plot with ample driveway parking. Available now.

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Cash Buyers Only

EPC: E
Guardian are delighted to offer this immaculate two bedroom top floor flat. Cash buyers only as it is over the 10th floor. Market rent £850pcm. Close to local amenities and schools.

£139,999

Willowfield, Harlow



EPC: C
Fantastic for both first time buyers and investors alike, Guardian are proud to be offering this one bedroom flat in the very sought area of Dadswood, situated in the town centre.

£160,000

Dadswood, Harlow



Train Station Location

EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom ground floor flat which is ideally located in the centre of Sawbridgeworth town. The flat benefits from having an open plan kitchen/living area, good size double bedroom, luxury bath/shower room.

£175,000

Kings Mews, Sawbridgeworth



EPC: C
O.I.E.O - Guardian Sales are delighted to offer you this one bedroom top floor flat in the area of Church Langley.

£184,995

Wedgewood Drive, Harlow



Ground Floor

EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to present this one bedroom ground floor flat in the much sought after private area of Church Langley. Close to amenities.

£185,000

Aynsley Gardens, Church Langley



EPC: E
No-Onward Chain - A fantastic opportunity for both first time buyers and investors. Guardian are excited to be offering this large 3 bedroom house in the area of Cannons Brook.

£220,000

Cannons Brook, Harlow



EPC: D
Guardian sales take great pleasure in offering this fine example of a ground floor two bedroom flat in the private development of Bromley Close, Harlow.

£225,000

Bromley Close, Harlow



Excellent Location

EPC: C
O.I.E.O - Guardian are delighted to offer this well presented top floor 2 bedroom flat with balcony and allocated parking. Situated in the ever popular Fifth Avenue development.

£234,995

Torkildsen Way, Harlow



EPC: F
Guardian are delighted to offer this well presented three bedroom terrace house in the Staple Tye area of Harlow. Gas central heating and double glazed through out. Roof recently replaced.

£249,995

Barely Croft, Harlow



EPC: C
Ideally located for easy access to the M11 junction, two bedroom terraced property in the popular Potter Street area of Harlow. The property boasts two large double bedrooms, a modern fitted galley kitchen and large through lounge.

£249,995

Pottersfield, Harlow



Superb Family Home

EPC: E
Guardian are delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom terraced family home. This property has lots of scope for the future.

£265,000

Nicholls Field, Harlow



EPC: C
Guardian are delighted to offer a rarely available two bedroom mid terrace house in a quiet, cul-de-sac location in sought-after Archers.

£270,000

Archers, Harlow



Town House

EPC: E
Coming to the market with Guardian is this well maintained 4 bedroom town house located near to the town centre as well as shops and schools.

£299,999

Pittmans Field, Harlow



SSTC

SOLD - OTHER CHURCH LANGLEY PROPERTIES REQUIRED

£310,000

Coalport Close, Church Langley



EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to acquire this three bedroom detached family oriented property in the sought after, private area, of Albert Gardens, Church Langley.

£340,000

Albert Gardens, Church Langley



Semi Detached

EPC: D
Guardian are delighted to present an exciting opportunity to purchase a wonderful three bedroom semi detached house in the highly sought after area of Fir Park. Immaculately presented.

£375,000

Fir Park, Harlow

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Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom, first floor flat in Brockles Mead. This property benefits from gas heating, a balcony and is close to local shops and amenities. Available NOW! EPC - D

£700 PCM

Brockles Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this one bedroom first floor flat that is situated in close proximity to the shops and amenities of bush fair. The property is in excellent order and in internal viewing is advised. EPC - C.

£750 PCM

Regency Court



Guardian are delighted to offer this immaculate one bedroom annex in the sought after area of Ducketts Mead, Roydon in a quite cul-de-sac overlooking the river. This property benefits from gas heating, allocated parking, a small garden and modern fittings throughout. This property is close to the train station and other local amenities. EPC - D

£800 PCM

Ducketts Mead



Clean and tidy two bedroom flat with open plan kitchen and lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom, storage cupboard and balcony. Popular area. EPC - C

£800 PCM

Moorfield



Guardian are delighted to offer for rent this lovely two bedroom maisonette close to the Staple Tye area of Harlow. This first/top floor property is offered with oven, fridge freezer and washing machine. Gas heating, double glazed windows, two large bedrooms and wooden floors. EPC C.

£845 PCM

Five Acres



Great sized two bedroom flat in The Hides with modern kitchen, modern bathroom and gas heating. Close to the town center. Available Now. Please call to view. EPC - D.

£875 PCM

The Hides



Great two bedroom top floor apartment in Priory Court, on the outskirts of town. With modern fitted kitchen, gas central heating, two double bedrooms and balcony. Available early February - call to view. EPC - C.

£885 PCM

Priory Court



Immaculate two bedroom first floor flat located just off Potter Street. Modern and stylish interior with laminate flooring, double glazed windows, gas central heating and large storage cupboard. Sorry no smokers or pets applicable for this property. Available mid January. EPC C.

£900 PCM

Fullers Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom garden maisonette. The property is located in close proximity to shops and amenities and is available early February. An early internal viewing is advised. EPC - B.

£925 PCM

Mercers



Guardian are delighted to offer this two bedroom terraced house located in Church Langley. The property benefits from gas central heating and 2 off street parking spaces. The property is offered part furnished and is available now. EPC - D.

£975 PCM

Bentley Drive



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom house located within walking distance to the shops and amenities of Staple Tye, an internal viewing is advised. The property is available early February. EPC - D

£1000 PCM

Milwards



Great sized family home in the Staple Tye area of Harlow, available early January. Partly furnished. Good sized bedrooms, modern kitchen and neutral decor. Benefits from garage and driveway parking. EPC D.

£1,100 PCM

Brockles Mead



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom semi-detached home in the sought after area of Elwood, Church Langley. This property benefits from allocated parking, gas heating and is close to shops and amenities. Available Now. EPC - D.

1200 PCM

Elwood



Guardian are delighted to offer this three bedroom terraced home in Joyners Field. This property benefits from gas heating, a rear garden, close to shops and amenities as well as re-decoration through out. This property is available Now! White goods included. EPC - C

£1200 PCM

Joyners Field



Lovely three bedroom house within walking distance of Bush Fair. Comprising entrance hallway, large fitted kitchen with space for dining table, good sized lounge, three bedrooms and bathroom. Manageable rear garden. Available early January. EPC E.

£1225 PCM

Longfield



Guardian Residential Lettings are very pleased to offer this great three bedroom family home with garage in the popular turning of Doulton Close, Church Langley. Comprising entrance hallway, downstairs WC, fitted kitchen, lounge to rear, three bedrooms with ensuite to master and family bathroom. EPC - D

£1275 PCM

Doulton Close

www.guardianresidential.com

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YOUR HOME

With Bake Off finalist and builder Richard Burr



Wooden floors can look great in the home. Right, Richard uses an edging sander, and below right, a drum floor sander



Take the floor

You know what? Underneath that tired, possibly stained, dust mite-infested carpet, there's very likely a wooden floor that could look a million times better – if you knew how to sand and paint it.

Luckily for you, I did just that recently, so here are my tips for doing it yourself...

1 CLEAR THE ROOM

Sanding a wooden floor can be dusty, especially if you have gaps between floorboards to fill. Take all your furniture out, cover shelves and mantels with plastic sheeting and take the curtains or blinds down. This will save you hours of time (and heartache) later, and it's never a bad idea to stick the curtains into the dry cleaners when you've got them down.

2 PREPARE THE FLOOR

Your wooden floor may have cuts

in it from electrical or plumbing fitting, or from various repairs. You may even need to replace a board or two if they're badly damaged.

Fill any gaps you find with two-part wood filler. If your gaps are wider than 5mm, you may need to roll up some newspaper and press it into the gap to give you something to fill up against.

Carefully lift any mouldings you find, which can sometimes sit between floorboards and a skirting board. If you lift these gently, you might be able to salvage them, otherwise most DIY stores have moulding selections you can replace them with.

If you had carpets down, you'll need to lift the gripper rods and any staples that held your underlay down. Also, if you've taken carpet up, you'll need to get a different profile of threshold strip for any doorways into the room.

If you're going to paint the floor, fix down any loose, squeaky boards by screwing them down before you start filling. However, if you want to varnish your floor, use brad nails to secure your boards instead, as it's a better

look on wooden boards. It's very important not to screw or nail down the middle of the end of your floorboard, as this is where the pipes and electrics will run if you have them. This is why floorboards are secured in the corners instead.

3 GET SANDING

If your room is small, you have the time – and if your fingers could stand up to the grating they'd get – you could sand your floor by hand. But the best plan is to hire a drum floor sander from any building hire shop. They are a bit heavy, but you can have them delivered with plenty of sandpaper, and they'll do the job very quickly and easily.

Use 40 grit sandpaper to start, if you have old varnish or lots of ground-in debris, then use 120 grit to finish, so the surface ends up smooth.

Work methodically up and down the room, making sure you don't sand in one place for too long – the coarse sandpaper can really eat into the boards. Finish sanding the edges of

the floor where the sander can't quite reach by hand (or you could also borrow an edging sander), and then sweep and vacuum up the dust. And it's a good idea to shake out your dust sheets now, so no dust falls on your floor while you're painting.

4 CHOOSE THE RIGHT PAINT

You can paint, stain or varnish your sanded floor in a wide range of colours and finishes, but make sure you buy products that are specifically for floors – they are harder wearing and certainly worth the small extra cost per litre.

You can use 3" or 4" brushes to paint with. If you use a roller it will leave your floor with a stippled effect, which doesn't look so good on a painted floor. With a brush, you can lay off your paint work for a smoother finish – this means painting in the direction of the grain of wood, and painting any drips back into the wood.

If you are painting your floor, you'll need to put at least two coats of undercoat down first. Make sure you

use a compatible undercoat to the top coat you are using – they are often designed to work together. I used Farrow & Ball paint for my floor, so two coats of wood floor primer and undercoat, followed by two coats of Charleston Gray Modern Eggshell.

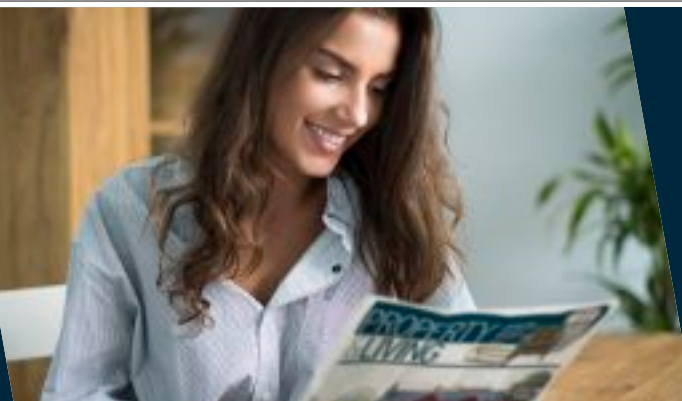
5 DON'T PAINT YOURSELF INTO A CORNER

Most importantly, start on the far edge of the room and don't paint yourself into a corner (this does happen, and is a right laugh when the apprentices do it!).

If you intend to keep your doors on their hinges during the job, make sure you paint the floor behind them before you paint yourself out of the room. Also, open the windows so you don't poison yourself with fumes.

Pay attention to the drying times, so you can get multiple coats on efficiently, and paint the top coats in the same way. For stains and varnishes, apply in the same way, just don't forget that ventilation – they can be really smelly.

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HOME ADVICE

With Alex Neill of Which?

STRETCH OUT FOR A BIGGER HOUSE

Christmas is almost upon us. But if you are thinking of a home extension, now is a good time

Act now to book time with architects and builders to help with an extension to your home

Could you do with a little more space? Architects, designers and builders often have little to do this time of year, so if you fancy expanding your home, you could sort out your plans in time for work to start in the spring.

If you own or are buying a house, you may be able to stretch your living space upwards, sideways, backwards and downwards.

Downwards into a basement – especially digging a new one – is rare, generally expensive and often disruptive. Most extensions are sideways – turning unused garages into living space, backwards with building onto

the rear of the house – or upwards, converting a loft into a bedroom, and perhaps extra bathroom.

An alternative is the “garden room” – effectively a really posh shed fitted out as an office or extra living space.

- Look around neighbouring streets to see what works and what does not.
- Other than the property itself, this is likely to be your biggest expense ever. Ensure you receive several quotes. But remember that cheapest is not always best.
- Tie everyone involved down with legal contracts. The most commonly used is the JCT (Joint Contracts Tribunal) Minor Works contract, updated regularly to incorporate changes in law. If a

First calculate what you want. Then get a planner to say whether that will work or not. Planning rules are complex, varying from area to area – even within the same local authority area. You won't require planning permis-

sion for some smaller rear single storey extensions but find out first – even the look of the extra space can affect decisions.

The cost of a square metre of extra space varies with where you live

TOP TIPS

builder or designer refuses to sign this or similar paperwork, move on.

■ Ensure you have firm dates for the start and finish of the work written into the contract. There should be a penalty clause so builders have to compensate you if the work overruns, although you have to allow some extra time for weather and other problems.

■ Retain a proportion – perhaps 10 per cent – of the contract price for three to six months to ensure builders return to deal with “snagging” – little problems that can occur in the best run construction.

■ Consult neighbours before starting, and explain what the works will entail. They may be inconvenienced by builders' lorries, skips and scaffolding – try to put their minds at rest and listen to objections.

Which?

and the luxury level you want. Most extensions cost from £1,000 to £2,000 a square metre for a single storey add-on. If you can build sideways, consider a second floor – a bargain as most of the expense is in the foundations and roof.

Paying for the extension means money now. If you don't have enough savings, consider a remortgage.

But if you want to recoup the cost when you move, keep an eye on local house prices. There's little point in spending £100,000 on a luxurious extension if typical properties go for £150,000 but that's fine if the local average is £600,000.

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We help you
make it
a home

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essexlive.news/property

YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERTS

HarlowStar

SHOP HOME

Silver grey Christmas place mats, £15, napkins sold separately raggedrose.com



Left: Christmas tree pattern paper cups, £2.99, gingerray.co.uk

Meri Meri reindeer pinata, £21.50, printerandtailor.com



...FUN PARTY GAMES



HOUSE!
Mecca Bingo Christmas gift box £20 available at Mecca Bingo Clubs



NEW IDENTITY
Who Am I? guessing game by Ginger Ray, £4.99 gingerray.co.uk



IN A SPIN
Wheel Of Mis-Fortune party drinking game Yellow Octopus, £22.61 yellowoctopus.com



BUILDING TOLERANCE
Stacking tower drinking game Yellow Octopus, £10.17 yellowoctopus.com

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARTY

These buys will make any festive bash go with a bang, says **DAN BEAVAN**



Above: Stirling drinks trolley, £299, atkinandthyme.co.uk

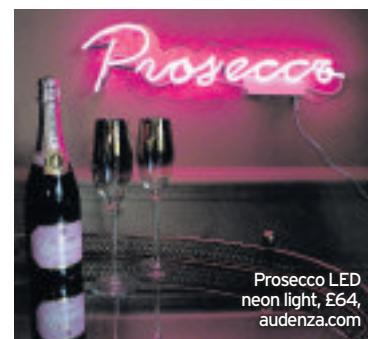
Left: Champagne glass, £20 four-pack, Tesco.



Right: Harry The Penguin cocktail shaker, £35, Habitat



Fox & Ivy Copper Hammered Champagne Trug, £20, Tesco



Prosecco LED neon light, £64, audenza.com



WHEELS

ROAD TEST: Toyota Yaris 1.5 Bi Tone by David Ward



AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Toyota Yaris 1.5 Bi Tone
- **Price:** £17,595 on the road
- **Engine:** 1.5-litre 110bhp petrol
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual
- **Performance:** 0 to 62mph 11 second, top speed 109mph
- **Fuel Consumption:** 58.9mpg combined
- **CO2:** 109 g/km
- **Insurance Group:** 10E
- **VED:** £160
- **BiK:** 21%
- **Warranty:** Five years/100,000 miles
- **On Sale:** Now

STILL A FAMILY FAVOURITE

With Toyota having thoroughly nailed its colours to the hybrid powered mass many motorists, quite wrongly, have a perception that's all you can have if you want to buy a small family car like their Yaris.

Toyota here reveal that currently 55 per cent of all Yaris buyers are opting for the hybrid and numbers increase all the time with the Icon Tech version the best seller.

Sensibly though Toyota has kept their petrol powered non-hybrid options open with the latest Yaris range but in doing so thankfully have replaced the old, rather lack lustre 1.33-litre petrol engine with a new, highly impressively more powerful and more economical 1.5-litre 110bhp petrol engine.

There's still further the choice of their one-litre, three cylinder petrol engine which stays in the new line-up but that's no comparison in overall driveability in my view to this new 1.5-litre, four cylinder, 16 valve engine which also goes to prove again that Toyota still knows how to make good internal combustion engines when all said and done.

This 1.5-litre engine is far more flexible than the old 1.33-litre and is more responsive when accelerating, particularly at mid range speeds, helped by a light but positive feeling six-speed manual gearbox.

Admittedly it's outright road-going performance is not up to the sportier levels of rival superminis but that's not what this 1.5-litre engine is all about and most drivers will be more than satisfied with acceleration (0 to 62mph in 11 seconds) and a combined

fuel consumption figure of 58.9mpg (it achieved a still commendable 52.2mpg on test).

Toyota's backroom team has also spent a great deal of time in improving the suspension and subsequent ride on this latest Yaris and whilst its overall a slightly stiffer ride the car now soaks up the bumps and humps on our roads far more efficiently and makes it all more comfortable for passengers.

In terms of non-hybrid models there's a wide choice of engines and trim levels ranging from Icon, Design, Excel, Icon Tech and as tested here the 1.5i Bi Tone which has an on-the-road price of £18,245.

Cheapest new Yaris is the one-litre, non-hybrid starting at £12,995 and the cheapest with this new 1.5-litre is £15,295 and with the same engine the cheapest hybrid is £17,595 with a CVT (automatic) transmission.

As always it's a question for buying



motorists to do their homework on the sums along with deciding whether to go for a hybrid or not but certainly this new 1.5-litre petrol engine without the hybrid is a worthy contender at anytime, particularly in its slightly upmarket Bi Tone configuration which sits on 16-inch wheels.

This grade of specification is definitely impressive for its price and amongst its high level of standard kit on board is Toyota's Safety Sense features like pre-collision system, lane departure warning, traction control, automatic high beam and more.

Inside it's a similar story with air conditioning, cruise control, rain sensing wipers, rear view camera, leather steering wheel, follow-me-home headlights that can stay on for up to 30 seconds after the car ignition is switched off and much more.

Staying with the interior for the driver there's an excellent easily adjustable driver's seat, easy to use multi media touch screen with other controls and dials better positioned than last time around along with Bluetooth, DAB radio and a six-speaker audio system.

There's more soft touch plastic surrounds too, nice large side windows and no pillars blocking the driver's view front or rear and a little bit more head and leg room than before plus plenty of storage spaces even for water bottles.

The rear seats split 60/40 and boot space is 286 litres which is about par for the course for this kind of car and on this Bi Tone version there are naturally more standard features on board than cheaper models.

From the outside the Bi Tone certainly looks different with its honeycomb mesh grille, piano black side mouldings, rear privacy glass and rear spoiler making it overall more eye-catching than other trim level versions.

This new Yaris already has 5 star NCAP ratings and all come with an impressive list of safety features such as ample airbags including driver's knee airbag, tyre pressure warning system and road sign assist.

This 1.5-litre Bi Tone doesn't quite break the 100 g/km mark for CO2 coming in at 109 g/km but insurance is low (group 10E) and VED band is just £160.

Certainly opting for the Bi Tone model with this new 1.5-litre engine is worth serious consideration because overall it's exceptionally good value for the money in today's market place and it looks different in the car park or home driveway with that natty styled body.

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WHEELS

ROAD TEST: Jaguar XE R-Sport 180 AWD by Ian Donaldson



AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Jaguar XE R-Sport 180 AWD
- **Price:** £37,085
- **Mechanical:** 178bhp, 1,999cc, 4cyl diesel engine driving four wheels via 8-speed automatic gearbox
- **Max speed:** 140mph
- **0-62mph:** 7.9 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 60.6
- **Insurance group:** 27
- **CO2 emissions:** 123g/km
- **BIK rating:** 26%
- **Warranty:** 3yrs/unlimited miles

Head for central France and you can drive around a race track day or night for nothing – but don't forget those pesky French speed cameras lurking quietly and ready to spoil your holiday.

The address to put in the sat nav is the bustling town of Le Mans. Even the most non-enthusiast car owner will recognise it as the place where on a June weekend every year one of the world's most famous motor races takes place.

And mostly on public roads closed for the event but otherwise used by locals to get to the supermarket or into town for dinner.

Being at the wheel of a Jaguar and on holiday in the area it was near impossible not to head for the track/public road and soak up a bit of the atmosphere that makes Le Mans a mecca for thousands of Brits each year.

Especially in a Jaguar, if you've any interest in motor sport. For the Coventry cats have won the 24 Hours of Le

Mans a total of seven times – with five victories in the 1950s and then in 1988 and 1990.

Of course the Jaguar being written about here shares nothing but its name badge with those track heroes, although in R-Sport form it looks a bit racy with a body kit that includes chunky front bumper, extended side sills, bootlid spoiler and satin chrome side vents.

Add 19-inch alloy wheels in black (£1,255), no-cost black window surrounds and this coris grey (£650) XE was handsome enough to draw admiring glances from French pedestrians as we trundled demurely through town.

Posing for its photos on parts of the road/track striped with colour and with enough sandy run-off to stop a runaway racer, the smallest

Jaguar saloon felt at home, and ready to go rather further on a gallon of diesel than the Audis that made the race their own in recent years.

A smudge under 49mpg was an outstanding result over 1,300 miles, some spent with the XE's automatic gearbox in sport setting to encourage this compact five-seater to feel almost sports car lively.

The economy might even have tipped over 50mpg if this particular XE hadn't come with optional all-wheel drive. It adds 50 kilos weight, hits the official fuel consumption and emissions figures, pops £1,800 on the bottom line and only engages (the front wheels) if it detects slip at the rear.

I'd be happy to save the cash and put most of it towards the superb

advanced parking assist with surround camera (£1,610) that made parking the XE an absolute doddle even in the tightest spaces (think forecourt of city centre hotel, for instance).

No need for cameras while parking the car on the DFDS ferries that carried us to and from France, where we'll practised arm waving from the crew had us stationary and heading for the comfortable lounge in seconds.

Back in the car, there was time to sum up this thoroughly modern interpretation of a Jaguar saloon. Like its handsome Sixties' forebears, there is less room in the rear than many rivals – tall passengers need to mind their heads on entry.

No complaints about the way the car goes, though. Engage sport and the XE turns into a machine eager to please on every sweeping French country road bend, mixing verve with comfort in a way that remains uniquely Jaguar.



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2013 (63) Hyundai ix35,

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2015 (65) Fiat 500 Pop Star,

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2011 (11) Nissan Juke Acenta Sport dCi,

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£6,995 - per week £44

2011 (11) Mini Cooper D, 1.6, Diesel

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£6,995 - £44 per week

2011 (11) Hyundai i30 CRDi Automatic 1.6,

blue, 10,000 miles, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, air con, USB port, CD player

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2013 (63) Fiat 500 1.2,

White, alloy wheels, remote locking, panoramic roof, Bluetooth, e/windows, e/mirrors, one owner, 30,000 miles only,

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2010 (10) Citroen DS3 1.4,

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2008 (58) Renault Megan Convertible, Diesel,

Grey, panoramic roof, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, cruise control, air con, full leather interior, 53,000 miles

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2009 (09) Citroen C3 Pluriel Convertible 1.4,

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2007 (57) Volkswagen Eos 2.0 Diesel,

blue, alloy wheels, air con, heated leather seats, cruise control, remote locking, e/windows, e/mirrors, electric power hood, 90,000 miles

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2010 (10) Hyundai i10 Style,

blue, 5 dr, air con, e/windows, e/mirrors, CD player, parking sensors, heated seats, remote locking, 22,000 miles

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2008 (58) Ford Focus 1.8

Black, 5 dr, air con, CD player, e/windows, e/mirrors, on board computer, remote locking

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2008 (08) Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi,

Silver, £30 per year Tax, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, remote locking, 120,000 miles

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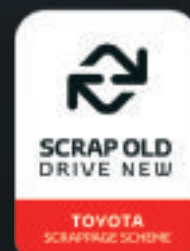


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Motability



C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.1 (7.4), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.8 (5.9). CO2 Emissions 135g/km. All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Model shown is C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual at £25,565. Price excludes metallic paint at £545. Prices correct at time of going to print. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of C-HR (excluding Hybrid) between 17th November 2017 and 17th December 2017 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st March 2018 on a 24 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 24 month AccessToyota contract with £7,399.30 customer deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC: registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 10p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply.

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WHEELS

ROAD TEST: Ford Edge Vignale by Robin Roberts

EDGE GETS SHARPER

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Ford Edge Vignale
- **Price:** £44,480
- **Mechanical:** 210ps, 1,998cc, 4cyl diesel engine driving four wheels via 6-speed automatic gearbox
- **Max Speed:** 131mph
- **0-62mph:** 9.4 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 47.5
- **Insurance group:** 29
- **CO2 emissions:** 152g/km
- **BiK rating:** 30%
- **Warranty:** 3yrs/ 60,000 miles



There is a new sharpness to the Ford Edge Vignale. Ford has again raised its game and put pressure on competitors with the high spec Edge Vignale.

When we first drove the Edge Sport with a 180ps 2.0 TD engine and six-speed manual gearbox we found it a bit underpowered for a model weighing over 1,900kg. Now with the top Vignale's 210ps output from the same engine and matched with a very smooth dual-clutch automatic/manual six-speed transmission it has been transformed.

Not only is it better to drive, has quicker acceleration and higher top speed but, and this may seem unlikely, it is actually more economical by a significant amount, rising from 38mpg to over 47mpg, a staggering 25% improvement, but hard use saw it fall to about 34mpg.

The high specification Vignale automatic gearbox and trim adds diamond pattern leather seat covers

among its luxury kit and slightly raised the kerb weight but it has not been at the expense of economy.

Vignale is the top trim level in a compact seven model range in four grades of the all-wheel-drive only Edge with a choice of 180 or 210ps 2.0 turbo-diesel engines equipped with six-speed manual or Powershift dual clutch sequential automatic transmission and costing between £30,650 and £41,165.

With the Vignale name comes a dedicated VIP service from Ford and partners to offer owners

special lifestyle opportunities and access to selected events.

The more powerful engine and automatic transmission showed a high degree of refinement and quietness along with smooth delivery and good acceleration.

It's still a small capacity engine for such a big model and this can still be an issue when heavily loaded with people, luggage or possibly towing, but in everyday use it distinguished itself.

I liked the steering weight and assistance, it turns in well on open roads and has a reasonably good circle when

manoeuvring or parking but it needs big spaces and you can order park assist and a wide-view camera to help.

Slowing and stopping the near 1,950kg five-door SUV as very easy with modest pedal effort, good assistance build up and an effective electric parking-brake.

Secondary controls are familiar column stalks, which work well, backed up by scattered switches along and under the fascia, on the central console stack and between the front seats.

The instruments are big and clear with a highly visible infotainment screen

for a multitude of features and displays.

The Edge Vignale is a comfortable car. Heating and ventilation was straightforward, worked well and kept the big cabin at desired temperature while the powered and heated front seats were supplemented by heated rear seats and steering wheel as options.

Access was very good with wide opening doors, lots of room both in cabin and bootspace, which had a high floor so it wasn't deep but wide and long instead. Oddments space was good.

The Edge Vignale has a good ride in its standard setting, slightly firm but generally absorbent, and it really soaked up all but the very worst potholes and bumps which could be heard passing beneath the car.

You are aware this is a big car from first setting eyes on it and corners are out of sight most of the time but it handles well with a fairly neutral feel and a high degree of grip. There is almost no body roll or pitching so rear seat passengers are unlikely to feel queasy.

I found headlights were powerful, wide and long ranging, the wipers among the biggest I have ever seen and the wash was very powerful.

The options are plentiful and need careful consideration but they are not expensively priced compared to some rivals so the Ford Edge Vignale is a realistic proposition for a lot of buyers who would not have thought the blue oval badge would look good on their drive.



WHEELS

ROAD TEST: Toyota C-HR Dynamic Hybrid 1.8 CVT by Maxine Ashford

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** Toyota C-HR Dynamic Hybrid 1.8 CVT
- **Price:** £28,085
- **Mechanical:** 121bhp, 1,798cc petrol engine with electric motor driving front wheels via CVT automatic transmission
- **Max Speed:** 105mph
- **0-62mph:** 11.0 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 72.4
- **Insurance Group:** 14
- **CO2 emissions:** 87g/km
- **Bik rating:** 17%
- **Warranty:** 5yrs/100,000 miles



HEAD-TURNING HYBRID

It's rare to see cars on our roads these days that are proper head turners. Obviously, if a supercar such as a Lamborghini or McLaren passes by, it will be met with a few jealous gasps of admiration, but a Toyota? Really?

Well, the model in question that gained heaps of attention was the Toyota C-HR (it stands for Coupe High-Rider) which boasts angled, sharp styling that makes it unique in the ever-growing crossover market.

It actually looks like a concept car that has just driven away from one of the prestigious motor shows around the world.

And when you factor in the Japanese company's expertise in hybrid technology, it's little wonder the C-HR is so appealing. The test model was powered by the hybrid powertrain used on the most recent Prius – a 1.8-litre 97bhp petrol engine combined with an electric motor to deliver an output of 121bhp/90kW.

Priced at £28,085 (£30,475 with options fitted), the C-HR can reach from 0-62mph in 11.0 seconds, maxes out at

105mph and can deliver combined fuel economy of 72.4mpg with carbon emissions of just 87g/km.

But it's first impressions that are so important and the C-HR certainly looks the business with its futuristic and somewhat quirky styling.

Features include 18-inch alloys, LED daytime running lights, front fog lights, rear privacy glass, follow-me-home headlights, a rear

spoiler and a gritty, athletic stance.

This car came in a bright pearlescent white colour with contrasting black roof, side pillars, door mirrors and body mouldings.

Coupe-like styling is achieved thanks to the rising waistline, swooping roofline and hidden rear door handles.

There is also a strong emphasis on the gem that's

supposedly a girl's best friend with diamond-shaped grooves in the lower grille.

Move inside and once again the C-HR resembles something from the future with neon blue trim running the length of the dashboard and into the doors.

There is full leather upholstery and bundles of on-board technology to be explored, including a JBL premium sound system,

dual-zone air conditioning, front and rear parking sensors with park assist, automatic wipers and lights, plus Toyota's Touch 2 with Go set-up that introduces the likes of sat nav, on-line connectivity and Bluetooth via an 8-inch colour touchscreen.

And that diamond theme is just as apparent within the cabin too with gem-like shapes on the steering wheel, instrument clusters, air vents, door panels, speaker grille and the roof headlining.

Comfort levels within the car are good and there is enough space for a couple of passengers to travel in the back without being too cramped.

Storage options are also thorough with a boot capacity of 377 litres which can be increased to 1,160 litres when the 60:40 split-folding rear seats are dropped flat.

Elsewhere there are plenty of handy compartments scattered throughout the car to store away any knick-knacks.

The C-HR starts up in complete silence and pulls

away very smoothly as it accelerates through the CVT automatic gearbox.

Thanks to its low centre of gravity – the lowest in the compact crossover segment – the C-HR can be driven enthusiastically with little feel of body roll.

There is a little engine noise when pushed hard and the CVT box will whine until you get used to driving it with a gentle right boot. But generally, the car performed well on any steep inclines and can easily keep pace on faster roads and motorways.

All C-HR models feature Toyota's impressive Safety Sense package as standard which includes a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, adaptive cruise control, lane departure alert, automatic high beam and road sign assist. This package is complemented by a raft of other safety systems such as hill-start assist, traction control, blind spot monitoring and rear cross traffic alert.

All in all, the C-HR is quite a little gem in a fiercely competitive sector and one that sparkles and certainly stands out from the crowd.



WHEELS

ROAD TEST: MINI Countryman John Cooper Works ALL4 BY Enda Mullen

MINI GETS EVEN BIGGER

AT A GLANCE

- **Model:** MINI Countryman John Cooper Works ALL4
- **Price:** £31,430
- **Mechanical:** 228bhp, 1,998cc, 4cyl petrol engine driving four-wheels via 6-speed manual gearbox
- **Max speed:** 145mph
- **0-62mph:** 6.5 seconds
- **Combined mpg:** 38.2
- **Insurance group:** 36
- **CO2 emissions:** 169g/km
- **BiK rating:** 32%
- **Warranty:** 3yrs/100,000 miles



It would be interesting to see whether BMW could stretch the magnificently malleable MINI brand to something larger than a Countryman. Currently this is the flagship – and the largest – model in the MINI range. Could there be something even bigger to come – such as a genuine MINI SUV? In truth it's probably unlikely – but who knows.

Indeed for many the Countryman is already way too large to be a proper MINI, and with the SUV acronym attached to it suggests this is as big as it's going to get for MINI.

One thing is for sure it is way larger than its predecessor, the first generation Countryman which fell short in some regards.

While the original looked good it failed to deliver when it came to practicality.

This version has been stretched by 20mm, which might not sound like a lot but in the automotive world

it makes a huge difference. In effect it means rear seat passengers are comfortably catered for and there's a decent amount of boot space – 450 litres.

The rear bench slides forward and back too, a particularly useful feature which means you can alter

the balance of legroom and boot space.

Overall the Countryman has a proper family car feel, combined with bucket loads of style.

While it doesn't have quite the timeless compact profile of the standard hatch it's still a seriously good looking car

that also offers scope for almost limitless personalisation – one of the MINI's great strengths.

MINI might not go down that full SUV route but the Countryman has a fair measure of the character of an SUV about it, with a hugely roomy cabin and

elevated ride height that offers a great and commanding view of the road ahead.

It looks good from the outside but MINI interior styling is another great strength. Big circular dials dominate and hint to the original 1950s Mini but with a contemporary flourish that is both utterly modern and quite unique.

I loved the sat nav in particular and some of the funky lighting effects. With a fully specced version the instrumentation can be a little congested but it's also intuitive and easy to use.

It's a fun just looking at the dash and instrumentation, particularly those chrome toggles – never mind using it.

This range-topping John Cooper Works (JCW) Countryman is a serious contender in the hot estate or crossover segment – even if at more than £31,000 it doesn't come cheap.

As one might expect it benefits from a significant performance upgrade.

The standard Cooper S's

2.0-litre four-cylinder has been boosted via a new turbocharger and additional intercooler to deliver 228bhp.

As a result this sporty crossover will sprint from 0-62mph time in just 6.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 145mph.

Handling has been enhanced through firmer suspension featuring adaptive damper control.

The end result is a car that really is great fun to drive and considering it does sit relatively high off the ground remains remarkably composed and flat while cornering at considerable speed.

Well-weighted steering and a super slick-shifting six-speed gearbox complete a most satisfying driving experience, even if the ride quality does err on the firm side, as one might reasonably expect.

Grip is enhanced by all-wheel drive – standard on this range-topping model – but also available as an option on other models.



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at £159. 42 inch chest, 36 inch
waist and 31 inch inside leg. Why
hire for £64. £55 Tel: 01279 865748
or 01279 865748

ITALIAN PURE WOOL SUIT by Mario
Bentini, dark blue, double breasted
42" chest, trousers 32" waist/33"
length only worn once, excellent
condition £90 ovno Tel: 01277 652018

LADIES COAT White Padded quilted
inside by Versace Size 1 (size
10) Has cream knitted collar and de-
tachible hood. Hardly Worn VGC.
£8 Tel: 01277 656224 or 07969
997526

MENS PARKA Style Jacket size XL
Olive Green with detachable hood,
jacket inside has navy, quilted pad-
ding. Pockets inside and outside.
Worn only once VGC £10 Tel:
01277 656224 or 07969 997526

VINTAGE JACKET Soft leather, Avia-
tor style. Lining has map of USA.
Zip front, 2 angled side pockets, 2
zip chest pockets. Size XL. Good
wearable condition. £30 ovno Tel:
01376 584181

YOUTHS JACKET Superdry Profes-
sional Windbreaker. Medium (approx.
38" chest). Navy. Fur lined. All zip/
tags working. Rarely worn. Excellent
condition. £40 Tel: 01621 893321 or
07887842073

**CLOTHES FOR Him BE THE HOST
WITH THE MOST!** Mens White
Tuxedo Jacket - Worn only once -
superb condition. £35 ovno Tel:
07470 826534 or 0737 9386161

COAT MENS (M&S) formal dark grey/
black, double breasted, wool/cashmere
coat, never worn cost £370 chest.
£70 Tel: 07736 165651

LADIES SUIT jacket and skirt by
Austin Reed, size 12, dark navy with
black, never been worn cost £330,
price tags still on garments £75 Tel:
01277 652018

MENS DRESSING Gown Marks &
Spencers, Burgundy Mix Luxury Ve-
lour. Size small. Extremely warm - cost
over £50 - only worn once £12 Tel:
01277 656224 or 07969 997526

NECKTIE Next Mens 'skinny'
jean shorts 30" (76cm) worn for one
week on holiday (2 pairs) as 2 pairs
for £12 Tel: 07736 165651

PURE WOOL SUIT double breasted
jacket 46" chest, trousers 40" waist,
32" long by British tailor, Dunn &
Co, never worn £75 Tel: 01277
652018

USA ARMY Clothing jacket, shirts,
sweaters, gloves, poncho, scrim net-
ting £75. USAAF CAMMO jackets,
poncho, slacks, hat, scrim nets. bar-
gain £35 Tel: 01277 200530

DUNLOP STEEL TOE Safety foot-
wear. Black. Size 6, in excellent con-
dition, worn once £12 ovno Tel: 01702
231002

EDINBURGH TARTAN SKIRTS NEW
2 ladies pure wool scotch orig.
tartans size 18 both, bargain £40 Tel:
01277 200530

JEANS BLACK Primark Mens Skinny
black jeans W30 L30 (were £10 now
- still with tags on) £5 Tel: 07736
165651

LADIES COAT Next Maxi Overcoat.
80% wool. Navy blue. Size 12. Good
condition. £20 Tel: 01621 893321

LEATHER JACKET black leather biker
style with tassels size small, hardly
worn bargain £30 Tel: 01277
200530

WEST END SHIRTS 9 hardly used,
bargain £20, city velvet collar coat
dk. gray, as new bargain £40 Tel:
01277 200530

STEEL CAPPED Safety Shoes, black,
size 6 in excellent condition £12 ovno
Tel: 01702 231002

GENTLEMENS SUED
WAISTCOAT MAKE A PERFECT
CHRISTMAS GIFT! BEAUTIFULLY
MADE BY 'OTSAR' EXCELLENT
QUALITY, SIZE M/L IN RICH
BURGUNDY COLOUR, LINED ON THE
FRONT WITH FINE COTTON, BACK
LINED WITH BURGUNDY SATIN.
TWO POCKETS & FIVE BUTTONS
DOWN THE FRONT. £15.00 01992
581564

Clothes for Her

MENS MORLANDS SHEEPSKIN COAT
MORLANDS SHEEPSKIN, GLASTON-
BURY, SWEARS AND WELLS SUED
CENTRE HAS BEEN PROFESSION-
ALLY CLEANED SIZE 44 CHEST.
LENGTH BOTTOM COLLAR TO HEM
34" (84cm) £70 Tel: 07914 613112

BOYS COAT. Superdry Professional
Hooded Windbreaker Jacket. Medium
(approx 38" chest). Navy. Fur lined.
All zip/tags working. Rarely worn. Ex-
cellent condition. £40 Tel: 01621
893321 or 07887842073

CLOTHES FOR Him Mens Sports
Jacket - Brand new with Sales Tags.
M&S 'Italian collection' - Wool and
Cashmere. Size 42R Medium Light
Brown Check £35 ovno Tel: 07470
826534 or 0737 9386161

CLOTHES FOR him Mens Black Diner
Suit with Satin Lapels Chest 40
inch waist 36 inch. Worn Once and
cleaned - superb condition £28 ovno
Tel: 07470 826534 or 0737 9386161

**CLOTHING FOR Him 'BE THE
HOST WITH THE MOST'** - Mens
White Tuxedo Jacket size 42R
worn once - Superb Condition £35
ovno Tel: 07470 826534 or 0737
9386161

DINNER SUIT Classic M&S quality
65% new wool mix range that starts
at £159. 42 inch chest, 36 inch
waist and 31 inch inside leg. Why
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231002

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200530

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WAISTCOAT MAKE A PERFECT
CHRISTMAS GIFT! BEAUTIFULLY
MADE BY 'OTSAR' EXCELLENT
QUALITY, SIZE M/L IN RICH
BURGUNDY COLOUR, LINED ON THE
FRONT WITH FINE COTTON, BACK
LINED WITH BURGUNDY SATIN.
TWO POCKETS & FIVE BUTTONS
DOWN THE FRONT. £15.00 01992
581564

LADIES LEATHER BOOTS SPANISH
'B THE BEST' BOOTS SIZE 40 (6
1/2 UK) LIGHT TAN SOFT LEATHER,
SYNTHETIC SOLE, POINTED
TOES, ZIP FASTENING, 2" HEELS
13" TO CALF MIN WEAR. £22 Tel:
07914 613112

BRAND NEW Gents Slippers (8) Clif-
ford James black leather moccasins
(size 8) Duplicate purchase so un-
worn and in original box with des-
patch packing. Photo on internet (nut-
ton) £15 Tel: 07713 869612

LADIES BOOTS Black suede size 7
1/2 Eur 41. Never worn. £30 Tel: 07814
759901

LADIES BOOTS Black leather size 7
eu40 never worn. £40 Tel: 07814
759901

MENS Shoes Clarks Superlight
mens shoes, Strollight style, Caffe
Nubuck. 7G, unworn. Letchworth
address. £20 01462 671188

FOR Sale Black Safety Boot to EN
345, ARCO size 9, steel toe caps,
unused. £10 01462 671188

Clothes for Her

LADIES Skirt. Riddella pleated mix,
size 18, striped heather mix,
60% wool 40% acrylic, unlined, 35
inch waist, 27 inch long.
Letchworth address. £15 01462
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length sheepskin jacket by
Waddingtons of Hull, 40/42 inch
chest, length 36 inch, hardly worn.
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puffa zip up Armani jacket in dark
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EASTX WINTER COST SIZE 16,
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THE FRONT, BACK VENT, TWO
POCKETS, STUNNING, RUBY RED
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AS NEW, LINED IN RED POLYESTER.
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'B THE BEST' BOOTS SIZE 40 (6
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SYNTHETIC SOLE, POINTED
TOES, ZIP FASTENING, 2" HEELS
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address. £20 01462 671188

FOR Sale Black Safety Boot to EN
345, ARCO size 9, steel toe caps,
unused. £10 01462 671188

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BRADSHAW BARIATRIC ELECTRIC HOSPITAL BED

Specially engineered to cater for patients of weights up to 50 stone
(320 kgs)

Electrically operated rising backrest and knee break functions.

Variable tilt/reverse tilt positioning.

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CareCo Riser/Recliner Chair, as new Dual Motor colour...Biscuit Aspen (light golden) Guardsman PLUS 5 year fabric care plan Very comfortable and easy to operate

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BUILD A Bear karate suit and all belts £2.50 Tel: 01245 463866

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Christmas Directory

24/7 Advertising for private and trade

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Walkies!

DOG WALKER IN CHELMSFORD!

Are you a dog lover who just doesn't have time to walk your best friend? Let us take care of that for you! "Walkies" is the new dog walking service in Chelmsford.

With a lifetime's experience and full insurance, you can trust us to treat your pet as you would for just £10 per hour!

Contact Matthew for more information.

Tel: 07922 683324

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Dogs

CHIHUAHUA

Stunning, smooth coat, tiny chocolate girl, KC Reg. Available to approved home only.

£1,000

01279 437199

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5 months old, 1 male left from litter, injected and chipped, home reared with children, needs a loving forever home.

£200

Stevenage area 07464 400237

Self-serve it INSTANTLY



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DOG BED - 3 Peaks medium soft, size L29" x W22" x D11", grey, removable cushion, wipe clean. Very tiny tear in the removable cushion which can be glued. £15 ono Tel: 01245 349998

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KC reg. boys/girls. Home reared. Ready middle/late January.

£975

Tel: ITEM SOLD

Self-serve it FOR FREE



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HOME COMFORTS

Dog Grooming Salon based in Sawbridgeworth. Also Mobile.

Call Samantha **01279 601010, 07768 078126**

MUTZ KUTZ DOG GROOMING

Qualified / Insured. Former Veterinary Nurse, Collection / Delivery. **07706 253886, 01279 426729**

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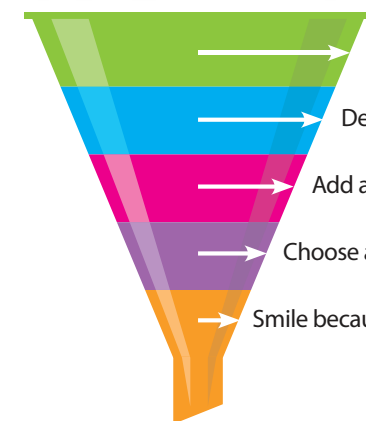
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 - ★ No call out charge
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Cash paid for.
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Blues, Rock, Punk, Metal, Prog Rock, Reggae, Soul.
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24/7

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BUNK BEDS

Wooden Bunk Bed with Mattress excellent condition 1 features a sturdy construction with a 3 step ladder allowing easy access to the upper bunk. Perfect for a child's bedroom.

£75
letchworth 07837 293159

SINGLE BED brown faux leather Single bed (mattress) solid headboard and footer. Large storage drawer below. Sprung base. Excellent condition, can be dismantled to carry home. £30 Tel: 01245 808691 or 07929350180

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Oak headboard for 4"6" double bed.

Excellent condition.

£65

Tel: 07776 223500 or 01245223500

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Double Wardrobe, Five Draw Chest of Drawers, Single Bed With Storage. White. Purchased 2016 New.

£250 ovno

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Large white draws good condition. Size 1m 62cm Long 51cm Wide and 97cm high. Collection Danbury

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handmade in the UK, 42" (107cm) wide x 81" (205cm) long x 22" (56cm) high. Low height ideal for problem knees and hips. Memory foam mattress 8" deep (20cm). Very good condition. Fitted sheets and protector included

£300 ovno

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Beds, Bedding, Bedrooms

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3 draw unit in good condition. Collection South Woodham Ferrers.

£15 ono

Tel: 07568 565100

CLOTHES RAIL, double hanging. Brand new, used for week. Chelmsford area. £5.00 Tel: 07913 407155

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Public Notices

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Public Notices

Essex County Council

(Jerounds, Harlow)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of Jerounds, Harlow in the District of Harlow, from a point approximately 85m east from its junction with Three Horseshoes Road, for a distance of approximately 113m in a southerly direction. The closure is scheduled to commence on 8th January 2018 for 26 days, or where stated on a valid permit (A20081000630874 - Cadent). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while gas connections works are undertaken by Cadent.

An alternative route is available via Pyenest Road, Kingsmoor Road, Three Horseshoes Road and vice versa.

The Order will come into effect on 14th December 2017 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

(Sedge Green, Nazeing)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of Sedge Green, Nazeing in the District of Epping Forest, from a point approximately 100m east of its junction with Nursery Road for a distance of approximately 90m in an easterly direction. The closure is scheduled to commence on 16th January 2018 for 5 nights (works to take place between 21:00 and 05:00), or where stated on a valid permit (EC30034777698 - UK Power Networks). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signs showing and/or displayed on www.roadworks.org. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while electrical connection works are undertaken by UK Power Networks.

An alternative route is available via Nazeing Road, Nazeing New Road, New Nazeing Road, Station Road, High Road, High Street, Charlton Way, Conduit Lane, Dinant Link Road, Essex Road, Dobbs Weir Road, Sedge Green and vice versa.

The Order came into effect on 7th December 2017 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

(Various Roads, Harlow District)

(Temporary Prohibition of Traffic & Clearway) (No.9) Order 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Essex County Council has made the above Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Effect of the order:

1. To temporarily close the various lengths of road in the Harlow District as specified in Schedule 1.
2. A temporary 'No Stopping' restriction will be introduced on both sides of carriageway on the above lengths of roads for the duration of the closure to facilitate the works. Signs will be installed indicating when the No Stopping restriction will be in force.

"The District of Harlow (On Street) (Waiting, Loading and Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2011" will be temporarily amended to include the temporary 'No Stopping at Any Time' restriction and suspend any existing parking and waiting restrictions on the above lengths of roads only. All other restrictions and exemptions contained in the aforementioned Order and Amendments to that Order shall remain in force.

The works being undertaken will take place within an 18-month period from 7th December 2017 exact dates will be specified on http://roadworks.org/. The roads will be closed to facilitate each phase and then re-opened to the public. Access will be maintained for emergency services. Diversion routes will be signed at each location and residents will be informed of the dates of each phase via letter/leaflet drop and advanced warning signs on the road.

For all enquiries please contact our Contact Centre on 0345 603 7631.

The Order came into effect on 7th December 2017 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Schedule 1

Road	Parish	Extents	Diversion
Church End	Harlow	From its junction with Brookside to a point approximately 196m North	No diversion for this closure
Church End	Harlow	From its junction with Brookside for a total distance of approximately 328m	No diversion for this closure
Mercers	Harlow	From its junction with Brookside to a point approximately 165m North/East	No diversion for this closure

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Owners and occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use and enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at: East of England, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, Stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



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Public Notices

Essex County Council

(Unnamed footpath running through underpass below First Avenue, Harlow)
(Temporary Prohibition of Use) Order 2012

Notice is hereby given that the above Order made by Essex County Council, under s14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has been continued in force with the consent of the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport until 11 June 2018.

Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of Unnamed footpath running through underpass below First Avenue in the District of Harlow from a point 90 metres east of junction with Park Lane proceeding north in an anticlockwise loop beneath First Avenue for its entirety to a point on the south side of First Avenue 54 metres east of Park Lane and 110 metres east of Park Lane.

An alternative route has been provided by the signalled pedestrian crossing immediately to the west of the junction between First Avenue and Park Lane.

The Order came into effect on 11 June 2012 and is required for the safety of the public and workforce while works for the realignment of underpass approach ramp due to the residential development is undertaken.

Essex County Council, Network Assurance, A2 Annexe, Seax House, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) Directions 1992

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by Harlow District Council. These applications and others received can be inspected online at www.harlow.gov.uk or at Harlow Council Planning Services, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex CM20 1WG on Monday-Friday, 9am-4.45pm. If you are unable to view the plans during these times, please telephone Planning Services on 01279 446856 where a suitable appointment can be made with the relevant case officer.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Application No	HW/FUL/17/00435	Ward: Sumners and Kingsmoor
Application Type	Full Application	
Location	Land Adjacent to 175 Milwards, Harlow, Essex	
Proposal	Conversion of existing house into three one-bedroom flats together with a single-storey rear extension.	
Reason for Advert	Local Public Interest	
Application No	HW/HSE/17/00548	Ward: Old Harlow
Application Type	Householder Application	
Location	38A St Johns Avenue, Harlow, Essex CM17 0BB	
Proposal	Single-storey rear extension.	
Reason for Advert	Conservation Area	
	Harlow Star Publication 14 December 2017	

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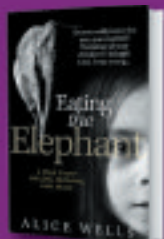
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Death at Wolf's Nick	Paperback	£7.99	£4.00
Eating the Elephant	Hardback	£12.99	£6.50
Eating the Elephant	Paperback	£7.99	£4.00
The Green Bicycle Mystery	Paperback	£7.99	£4.00
The Hunt for the 60s' Ripper	Paperback	£7.99	£4.00
One Last Job	Paperback	£8.99	£4.50
Out of My Depth	Paperback	£8.99	£4.50
The Perfect Crime	Paperback	£9.99	£5.00

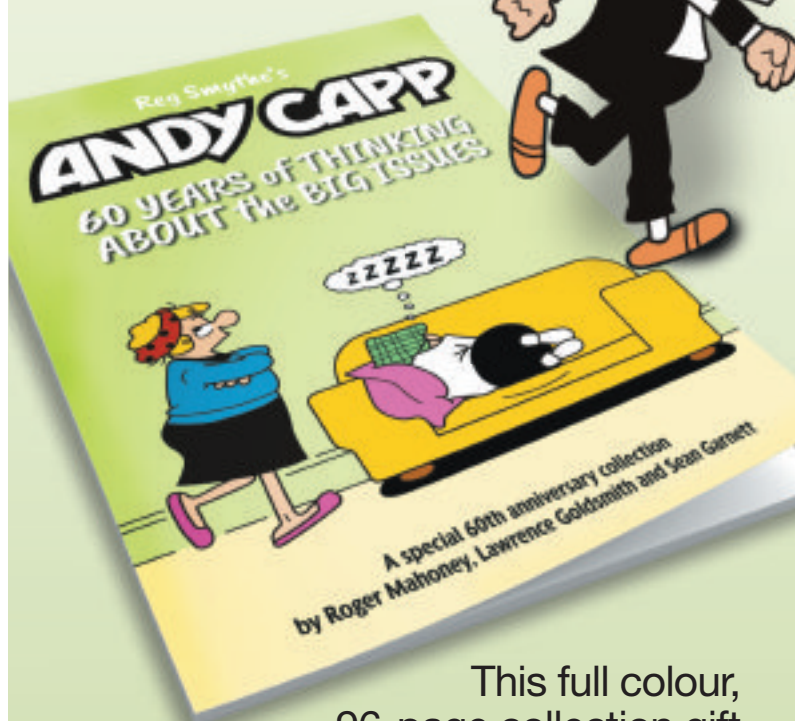
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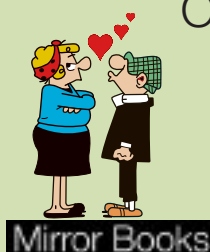
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Claire Petulengro YOUR STARS WITH

ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 20
Close ones are only being so stubborn about Christmas arrangements because they've gone out of their way to plan fun things for you. What they don't realise, is that you already had your priorities in order and they are not the same as what others had in mind. Announcing your plans sooner rather than later, can ease the likelihood for confrontations. Ring now for an intriguing festive prediction.

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TAURUS APRIL 21 - MAY 21
Always listen to your heart. It's the only way a sign like you will ever truly find the happiness they seek. Forms you filled out are worth looking at again. Even if it costs you more money in the short run, it is sure to save you money in the long run. New friendships help you to realise that you were living life for others needs and not your own. Ring now so we can change that.

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GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21
You start to see who is on your side and who has simply been saying what they think you want to hear. Your energy levels start to come back. This has a lot to do with the fact that you are no longer doing what looks right, but are instead doing what feels right. Fellow Geminis can keep those secrets which are weighing you down. Ring now so we can lay the past to rest for good.

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CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22
Even if you try to hide your feelings, you won't be able to. What you think and feel will be written all over your face, my friend. Of course, you could always try admitting to those around you what it is you want from your future. It will save a lot of wasted time and effort for everyone if you do. Ring now to hear why I know you have the ability to end this year on your best high yet.

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LEO JULY 23 - AUGUST 23
Disagreements can and will spiral out of control if you don't get back in the driving seat. What you thought to be a promise in work, could well have turned out to have been nothing more than a suggestion. You hold the power to play peacemaker and to bring those together who have fallen out. Use it on Thursday for dramatic success. Ring now to mix the past and present successfully.

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VIRGO AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 22
I can see that you seem to have lost sight of what you want from the end of this year. In the run up to Christmas, your sign always seems to feel the pressure more than others. Promise yourself that you will not take on more than you know you can or should do. By being honest about what you want to do, you will gain the respect and the help of those you need. Ring now for insight.

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LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23
I can see you're feeling a little dependent about something which was never your fault, but which you seem to be experiencing a loss of control over. Your element of air sees you talking about your problems to all those around you this week. For once this is a good thing. This really is one week where a problem shared is a problem halved. Ring now to hear why you're more psychic this month.

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SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21
If you know you need to make an apology to a close one, then do it before Friday or you may not get the chance to do it until next year my friend. I lie you told comes back on you and you'd be wise to hold your hand up and say sorry if you want to move on quickly and easily. We all say things we don't mean from time to time. It's how you deal with the aftermath that matters. Ring now so I can help.

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SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 20
Start the great teacher brings out your need to put things right with your family. You don't want a difficult atmosphere between you and your loved ones. A mix up in work will come back on you, even if it's not your fault. The sooner you speak up, the sooner you will be able to move on and deal with what really matters. Ring now to hear how instant attractions can change the course of your life.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL **0911 8532 308** 65p PER MINUTE

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 20
Would you rather regret the things you've done or the things you haven't? Remember this month my friend, that the glass is half full not half empty. Focusing on the good in your life can help you move mountains. Someone you did not want to see over the festive period will be making life easier for you by stepping back you did not want to see over your dreams into a reality.

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AQUARIUS JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19
It's important that you try to keep a flexible mind and attitude this week. Those you will be dealing with won't be able to help you otherwise. News of a wedding or engagement in your circle gives you faith in love and happiness. Don't sign any contracts in business unless you have sought a professional opinion. Ring now so we can make your future the very best it can be.

FOR WEEKLY AND MONTHLY READINGS CALL **0911 8532 310** 65p PER MINUTE

PISCES FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
Are you putting up barriers against those who have presented you with a problem? Only you can answer this question with any honesty Pisces. If you do think you've been a little rough on those who have 'irritated' you, then make an effort this week to put things right. Social offers towards the end of this week give you the perfect chance to do so. Ring now to hear more.

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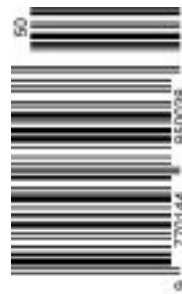
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'We're fighting hard to make it happen'

Knight admits team have had a hard start to season

By **Andrew Franczak**

andrew.franczak@hertsessexnews.co.uk

HAWKS assistant boss Spencer Knight has admitted there is no hiding from the fact that his side have had a tough first half to the season, but insists they are fighting hard to turn the corner.

Harlow remain in 22nd place in the Bostik League Premier Division table with just 18 points from 20 games following their 2-1 defeat at the hands of Met Police – their ninth on the road this campaign.

"There's no hiding from the fact we've had a tough start to the season for a number of reasons," said Knight.

"We're not where we want to be, or believe we should be, but the only people that can turn that around are the players.

"We're fighting hard and sticking together and we'll turn the corner to make it happen.

"It's easy to say we've been unlucky, but the results don't lie – we've not been good enough away from home.

"I don't think we are alone in that. If you look across the league a lot of teams are struggling away from home for one reason or another.

"We try to play the same way but away from home it's not quite worked for us.

"I think it will turn eventually, we've just got to stay patient and

remain positive.

"Our home form is our strong point and we've got to kick on with that this Saturday."

Things don't get any easier for the Hawks as they host fourth placed Folkestone Invicta, who suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at home to bottom of the table Worthing in midweek, and then travel to high-flying Staines Town this Tuesday.

"It wasn't a surprise to us that Worthing won that game, although we beat them last week they looked a good side and they are definitely one of the sides that will finish in the top half of the league the way they are performing at the moment.

"The reports we've had back from Folkestone are that they are a good team, we know it will be tough.

Double

"But anyone coming to our place knows it will be hard, so we will focus on that.

"Staines are a really good side but we've done our homework on them. We managed to do the double over them last season which was great, we'll try and replicate that.

"We've got a few players back from injury and illness so hopefully going up to the busy Christmas period we'll have a full strength team to choose from and



Harlow Town assistant manager Spencer Knight

that can make a big difference."

Sirius Gordon was unwell and couldn't travel for the Met Police game, but should be back this Saturday.

Defender Jimmy Shepherd (back strain) and midfielder Junior Dadson (dead leg) who also

missed the game at Imber Court, should return for the Folkestone clash, but Jidefo Maduako is suspended.

Sam Clarke, meanwhile, is still out long term with a fractured elbow.

"We're looking to bring in one

or two more players – a striker and a midfielder to give us a bit more going forward," revealed Knight.

■ HARLOW Town's home match against Merstham on Tuesday night was postponed because of the freezing weather.

Harlow are fourth after second round

HARLOW Running Club competed in the second round of the East Herts and West Essex Cross Country League over an undulating five mile course at Bishop's Stortford.

The ladies race was won by Ware Joggers, with the hosts second, Saffron Striders third and Harlow fourth, while the men's race was won by Stortford, with Ware Joggers second, Saffron Striders third and Harlow fourth.

After two races Bishop's Stortford top the standings with eight points, Ware Joggers are second (6pts), Saffron Striders third (3pts).

Harlow are sitting in a disappointing fourth with just two points.

In the ladies race, Carinne Jay finished in 11th place out of 92 finishers, Julia Gardiner was 12th, Dionne Jones 16th, Gail Nicholls 38th, Louise Cootes 42nd, Laura Prime 43rd, Debbie Barry 45th, Janice Page 46th, Louise Kedge 47th, Karen Moir 52nd, Holly Nairn 56th, Jane Evans 67th, Joy Hale 72nd, Brenda Clayton 77th and Liz Roberts 83rd.

Finished

Rob Lowe finished was 15th out of 131 finishers in the men's race. Alex Smith was 20th, Daniel Jephcott 25th, Owen Haigh 28th, Alan Broughton 29th, Andy Terrell 40th, Martyn Coulter 55th, Martin Westley 56, Steve Warren 72nd, Robert Scott 78th, Jon Steadman 80th, Darren Tiley 81st, Graham Saville 90th, John Tennant 91st, Will Wall 99th, Roy Steven 101st, Pasquale Pellicchia 102nd, Sean Flynn 103rd, David Morley 106th, Alan Cootes 108th, Martin McColgan 111st, Robin Lozeau 117th and David Page 119th.

Meanwhile, at the Harlow parkrun Andy Kitson clocked an excellent 19min 38sec to finish third out of 124 finishers.

He was followed home by Rebecca Bunting, in her debut for the club, in fourth and first female in a superb 20:32.

Other results: Ben Chitiyo, fifth in 20:32; Andy Terrell, seventh in 20:35; Martin Westley, ninth in 21:06; Spencer Brooks, 18th in 23:38; Catherine Ridge, 22nd and third female in 23:57; David Morley 24th in 24:07; Jim Bates 31st and first Vet 70 in 24:55; Louise Kedge, 42nd in 26:46; Debbie Barry 55th and second female Vet 55 in 27:48; Austin Nyamande, 64th in 28:19; Jane Evans, 70th and second female Vet 50 in 29:23.

Louise Cootes, 71st in 29:24; Pushpa Mistry, 78th and third female Vet 50 in 30:40; Liz Roberts, 93rd in 33:34; Debbie Cooper, 99th in 34:19; Melanie Harris, 100th and first female Vet 60 in 35:01; Alan Wellbelove, 110th in 37:51 and Sara Coombe, 122nd in 46:32.

At the Gunpowder parkrun at Waltham Abbey, Daniel Jephcott was second out of 137 finishers in a tremendous 18:42.

Met Police nick points as poor away run continues

HARLOW Town's poor away form in the Bostik League Premier Division continued as they slumped to a 2-1 reverse at Met Police.

The crowd were treated to an excellent opening to the match which saw end-to-end football.

Jared Small delivered a teasing cross to the back post, and Andrea Mayasi's volley from just a couple of yards out was superbly saved by Met Police keeper Luke Williams.

At the other end, Tom Bird had a good opportunity when a foul on the corner of the Harlow Town goal area gave away a free-kick, but he fired just over.

Jay Gasson then looked certain to score for the hosts with a header from five yards out, but David Hughes' terrific reaction stop parried the ball away.

Hughes was called into action again a minute later, sticking out

a leg to save Bayley Mummery's effort.

On the half hour mark a great cross to Jonny Wright at the back post should have been turned in, but with the goal at his mercy he missed the ball.

Harlow had their own spells of pressure, and when Small's cross made its way through a crowded area to Andre Mayasi, he dragged the shot wide.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 44th minute when Alex Read collected the ball on the edge of the area and slid his shot past Williams.

The second half saw the hosts pushing for an equaliser.

Aaron Good forced Hughes into yet another sharp save, before Lloyd Macklin put a half volley wide. Bird then curled a free-kick over the wall, but Hughes got across quickly to tip the shot over the bar.

From the resulting corner



Alex Read (centre) scored for Harlow

Photo: ALISON JENKINS.

however, Met Police took the lead. The cross was headed back across goal, and Will Salmon was in the right place in the middle to head home.

The hosts took the lead in the 84th minute when the Hawks lost possession, and Bird's looping shot went over Hughes and crept under the crossbar.

In the dying minutes Harlow's Fabion Simms turned into a defender in the box and was sent sprawling, but the referee waved away the penalty protests that would have been a lifeline for the Hawks to salvage a point.

"We were relatively pleased with the way the first half went," said Hawks' assistant boss Spencer Knight.

"It was end to end and we managed to get ourselves in front just before the break.

"The message to the boys was for more of the same in the second half, but we conceded a sloppy goal from a corner and then they hit us with a killer blow with five minutes to go.

"I would have said a draw was probably the fairer result on the balance of play, but they way things are going for us away from home at the moment we're just not getting that little bit rub of the green."